

ECLECTIC SCHOOL READINGS

STORY
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ULYSSES



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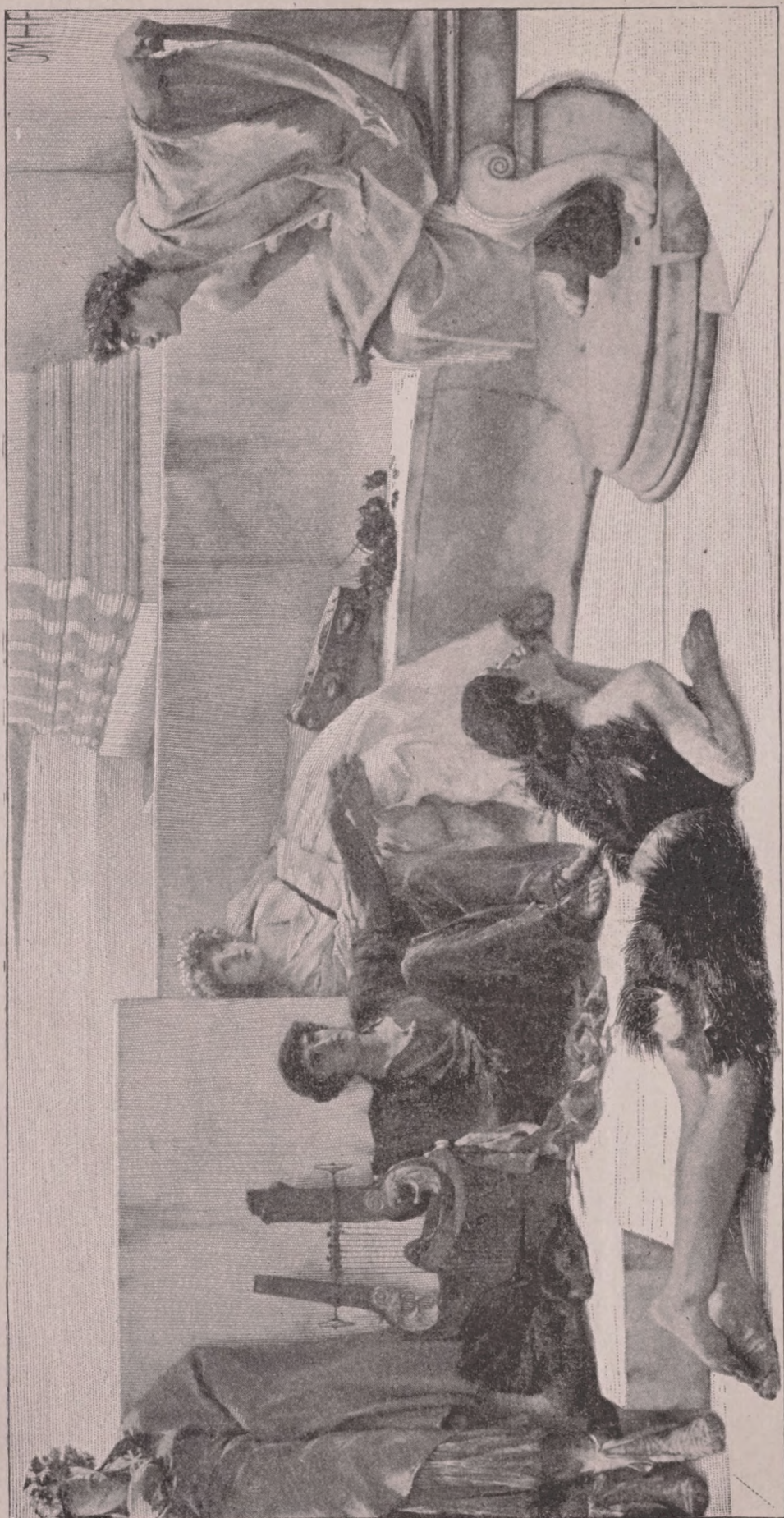
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Reading from Homer.

(Frontispiece.)

ECLECTIC SCHOOL READINGS

STORY OF ULYSSES

BY

M. CLARKE

AUTHOR OF "STORY OF TROY," "STORY OF ÆNEAS,"
"STORY OF CÆSAR"



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STORY OF ULYSSES.

W. P. I



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INTRODUCTION.

I. TROY.

IN this book we are to tell of the wonderful adventures of the Greek chief or king, U-lys'ses, during his long voyage home to his native island, Ith'a-ca, after the siege and destruction of Troy, — an event much celebrated in the poetry and legendary history of ancient times.

Troy was a great and rich city of A'si-a Mi'nor. It was situated on the northwest coast, about three miles from the shore of the Æ-ge'an Sea, at the foot of Mount I'da, and not far from the entrance to the channel formerly called the Hel'les-pont, but now known as the Dar-da-nelles'.

One of the kings of Troy was named I'lus, and from him the city was called Il'i-um or Il'i-on. His grandson, Pri'am, was king of Troy during the famous siege. This Priam, we are told, had fifty sons. They were all brave warriors, as kings and princes had to be in those days, when there were many wars, and when it was part of the duty of a

king to lead his soldiers in the field of battle, and fight valiantly at their head. In ancient times a "good king" meant a king who was a strong and brave man and a good fighter, who could defend his people well against the attacks of enemies.

II. JUDGMENT OF PARIS.

THE bravest of King Priam's sons was Hec'tor. He was commander of the armies of Troy during the greater part of the siege, and he was so valiant and skillful and wise a commander that while he lived the Greeks were not able to take the city. But in the Greek army there was a warrior braver and greater even than Hector. This was the famous A-chil'les, son of Pe'leus, king of Thes'sa-ly. Achilles killed Hector in single combat, but soon after he was himself killed by Par'is, another of Priam's sons.

It was this Paris, also named Al-ex-an'der, who brought about the ruin of Troy by provoking the great war, which ended in the destruction of the city. He was a very handsome young prince, and once when there was a dispute between the three goddesses, Ju'no, Ve'nus, and Mi-ner'va, as to which was the most beautiful, he was appointed by Ju'piter, king of the gods, to settle the dispute. The

three goddesses were required to appear before him on Mount I'da, so that he might see their charms with his own eyes, and be the better able to give a just decision. Each goddess tried by bribes to persuade Paris to decide in her favor. Juno offered him wealth and power; Minerva promised him great wisdom; Venus tempted him by an offer of the fairest woman in the world for his wife. The Tro'jan prince already had a wife, the charming young nymph, Æ-no'ne, who loved him dearly; but he was weak enough to yield to the inducement offered by the goddess of beauty, and so gave judgment in her favor.

III. ABDUCTION OF HELEN.

THE fairest woman in the world at that time was Hel'en, wife of Men-e-la'us, king of Lac-e-dæ-mo'ni-a, or Spar'ta, in Greece. The old legends tell us how Paris, prompted and directed by Venus, sailed from Troy with a number of ships and companions, and, arriving in Greece, made his way to the royal palace of Sparta. Here he and his retinue were honorably received by King Menelaus, who had no suspicion of the object of the Trojan prince's visit. This, however, was soon disclosed. Some time previous to the arrival of Paris, the



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Abduction of Helen.

Spartan king had accepted an invitation to join a hunting expedition in the island of Crete. On leaving home for this purpose, he intrusted to his wife, the beauteous Queen Helen, the duty of entertaining his Trojan guests until his return.

The absence of Menelaus was the opportunity desired by Paris. He told Helen of the promise of Venus, and, making her believe that it was the will of the gods that she should be his wife, he induced her to abandon her home and her husband and fly with him to Troy.

From her husband's stranger-sheltering home
He tempted Helen o'er the ocean foam.

ELTON, *Coluthus*.

Besides taking away Helen, he also carried off a large quantity of gold and other valuable things from the palace of the Spartan king.

IV. THE TROJAN WAR.

OATH OF THE SUITORS.

WHEN word of what had happened was brought to Menelaus, he speedily returned to Sparta, filled with grief and anger, and he immediately began to take steps to avenge the base conduct of the Trojan prince.

At that time Greece, or Hel'las, as it was called,

was divided into many separate states or kingdoms, each ruled by its own king. The greatest and most powerful of these kings was Ag-a-mem'non, king of My-ce'næ. He was the brother of Mene-laus, and his wife, Clyt-em-nes'tra, was Helen's sister.

When Helen was a maiden, the fame of her beauty brought all the young princes of Hellas to the court of her father, Tyn'da-rus, to seek her in marriage. Tyndarus, who was then king of Sparta, was thus placed in an embarrassing situation. He feared that by giving Helen to any one of the princes he should offend and draw upon himself the enmity of all the others. At last, on the advice of Ulysses, who was himself one of the suitors for the hand of Helen, Tyn-darus resolved to allow his daughter to choose for herself, but at the same time to require all the princes to promise on oath that they would submit to her decision, and that if any attempt should be made to carry her away from the husband of her choice, they would join in protecting her and in punishing the offender.

It may appear to us to have been very absurd to require such an oath, but it was not so considered in those ancient times when kings and princes very often had little regard for justice,

and when none were secure in the possession and enjoyment of their property except those who were strong enough to defend it by force. The kings and chiefs of Hellas, therefore, took oath to defend Helen and her husband against all violence. Helen then made choice of Menelaus and they were married, and, on the death of Tyn-darus, Menelaus became king of Sparta.

When Menelaus returned home, after Helen had been carried off, he summoned the kings and princes, and told them of the outrage committed by Paris. Then he called upon them to keep their oath and join with him in avenging the wrong. They all consented and at once resolved to declare war against Troy. But first they sent ambassadors to King Priam to demand the restitution of Helen and the treasures which Paris had taken away.

Unwisely and unhappily for himself and his family and country, the Trojan king refused this demand, and upon the return of the ambassadors, one of whom was Ulysses, the chiefs of Hellas set about to prepare for war. Ten long years it took them to get ready, and then in more than a thousand ships the Greeks, one hundred thousand in number, sailed across the Ægean Sea, and landed and encamped on the Trojan coast, just in view of the famous city of Troy.

Here for ten years more was waged the great struggle known as the siege of Troy. The city was protected by walls strong enough to resist all the strength of the enemy, and it was defended by numerous and powerful forces that had come from many parts of Asia to help the Trojans. Great warriors there were on both sides. King Agamemnon was commander-in-chief of the Greeks, and among the other valiant princes of Hellas who distinguished themselves in the war were Achilles and Nestor, the two Ajaxes, Menelaus and Ulysses, Diomedes and Neoptolemus, and many more. Hector was the foremost champion on the Trojan side. With him were numbers of renowned warriors including Sarpedon and Memnon and Rhesus and Æneas besides Paris and several of the other sons of Priam.

How the city was at length taken and destroyed in the tenth year of the war, comes within the Story of Ulysses, and will therefore be related further on.

V. THE ODYSSEY.

THE praises of the heroes of the Trojan War were much celebrated by the poets of ancient times. Homer, the first and greatest of those poets, who is said to have lived about nine hundred years

before the birth of Christ, describes some of the principal events of the siege in his famous poem called the Iliad. This poem is written in the Greek language, and is so named because it tells about Ilium, or Troy. It is universally regarded as the most beautiful poetic production of any age or time. Another great poem by Homer is the Od'yssey. It is so called because it tells of the adventures of Ulysses, or O-dys'seus, which is the Greek form of the name. In the following pages we make some quotations from the Odyssey as translated into English by our American poet, William Cullen Bryant, and also some from the translation by the English poet, Alexander Pope.

VI. THE GODS.

THE ancient Greeks, like the ancient inhabitants of most other countries, believed in a great many gods. According to their religion, all parts of the universe were ruled by different gods. They believed that there were gods of war and of peace, gods of music and of poetry, and of all the arts and occupations in which men were engaged.

In some respects the gods were like human beings. In appearance they were represented as like men and women, and like men and women



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Homer.

they married and had children. But they were far more powerful than men, and being gods they never died, and never grew old. They could change themselves into any form. They could make themselves visible and invisible at pleasure, and they could travel through the skies, or over the earth or ocean, with the rapidity of lightning. They were greatly feared by men, and when any disaster occurred, — if lives were lost by earthquakes, or by any other calamity, — it was said to be a punishment sent by the gods.

The usual place of residence of the principal gods was on the top of Mount O-lym'pus in Greece. Here they dwelt in golden palaces, and feasted at grand banquets. Their food was ambrosia, which conferred immortality and perpetual youth on those who partook of it, and their drink was a delicious wine called nectar.

Grand temples were erected to the gods in all the principal cities. At their shrines costly gifts in gold and silver were presented, and on their altars, sometimes built in the open air, beasts were killed and portions of the flesh burned as sacrifice. Such offerings were supposed to be very pleasing to the gods.

The greatest and most powerful of the gods was called Jupiter, or Jove, by the Romans, and Zeus

by the Greeks. He was king of the gods. The wife of Jupiter, and queen of heaven, was called Juno by the Romans, and by the Greeks, He'ra; and so each of the gods had a Greek name and a Roman name. One of the daughters of Jupiter, called Venus, or Aph-ro-di'te, was the goddess of beauty. Nep'tune, or Po-sei'don, was god of the sea. He is usually represented as bearing in his hand a trident, or three-pronged scepter, the emblem of his authority. Mars, or A'res, was the god of war, and Plu'to, also called Ha'des, was the god of the lower regions, or regions of the dead. A-pol'lo, or Phœ'bus, was the god of the sun, and of medicine, music, and poetry.

The other principal deities of the ancient Greeks were Minerva, or A-the'ne, goddess of wisdom, Di-an'a, or Ar'te-mis, goddess of the moon and of the chase, Vul'can, god of fire, Mer'cu-ry, or Her'mes, usually represented as the messenger of Jupiter, Bac'chus, or Di-o-ny'sus, god of wine, Ce'res, or De-me'ter, goddess of the harvest, and Ves'ta, or Hes'ti-a, goddess of the hearth.

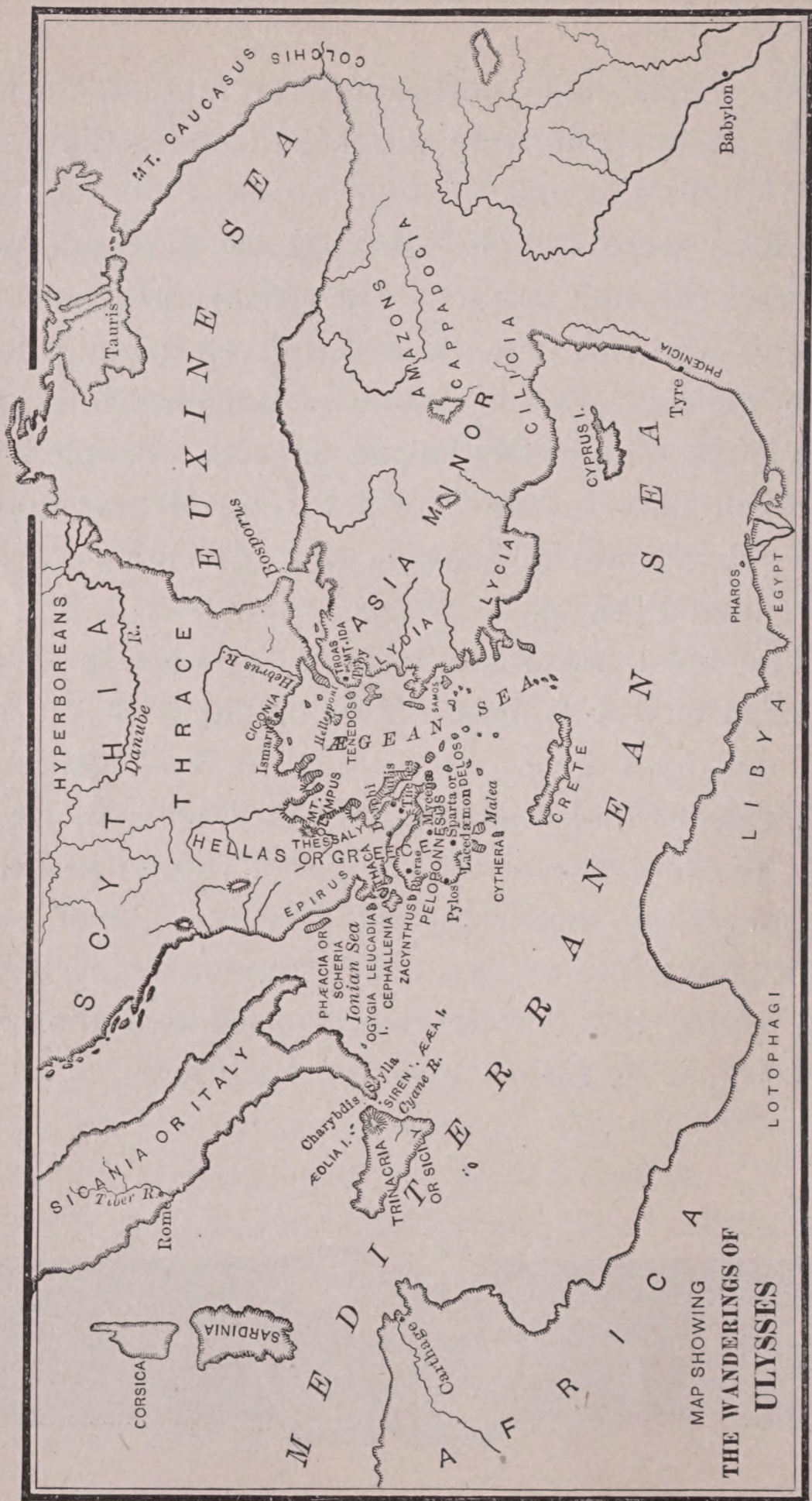
The gods, it was believed, made their will known to men in various ways: sometimes by dreams, sometimes by appearing on earth under different forms, and speaking directly to kings and warriors. Very often men learned the will of the gods by con-

sulting seers and soothsayers, or augurs. These were persons who were supposed to have the power of foretelling events.

There were temples also where the gods gave answers through priests. Such answers were called oracles, and this name was also given to the priests. The most celebrated oracle of ancient times, was that of Apollo at Del'phi, in Greece. People came from all parts of the world to consult the god at this place, and the answers were given by a priestess called Pyth'i-a.

The most ancient oracle of Greece was at Do-do'na, a city of Epirus. This oracle, it is said, was founded by a dove. According to the legend, two black doves took their flight from Thebes in Egypt. One of them flew to the temple of Jupiter in Libya, a country of Africa; the other flew to Dodona, and each spoke in a voice as of a human being telling the people that Jupiter had consecrated the place and would in future give oracles there.





STORY OF ULYSSES.

I. FEIGNING MADNESS.

IF you look at the map of Greece (see opposite page) you will find, near the northwest coast, in the I-o'ni-an Sea, the small island of Ithaca. This was once a very famous island, for it was the birth-place and home of Ulysses, celebrated in ancient times both as a brave warrior and a man "skilled in all kinds of stratagems and prudent in counsel."

The father of Ulysses was La-er'tes, king of Ithaca. He was a good father and took care to have his son instructed in all things which in those days it was proper for young princes to know. He took care, especially, to make him a good soldier. Young Ulysses was taught to handle the bow and arrow, the long spear or javelin, and the sword and dagger, which were the weapons used in war by the ancient Greeks. Ulysses was also trained in all kinds of athletic exercises, such as running and boxing and wrestling and throwing heavy stones or quoits. And when he grew up to

be a man he was so well fit to be a king that Laertes resigned the crown in his favor, and Ulysses became king of Ithaca.

We have seen that it was on the advice of Ulysses that Tyndarus required all the suitors for the hand of Helen to take oath that they would support her in her choice. In gratitude for his wise counsel Tyndarus gave Ulysses a very beautiful young princess to be his wife. Her name was Pe-nel'o-pe, and she was a daughter of I-ca'ri-us, brother of Tyndarus. Icarius loved his daughter so much that he wished her and Ulysses to reside with him in Lacedæmonia after their marriage, but Ulysses preferred his own island home, and so he and his young wife sailed away to Ithaca. Here they lived happily together, and after a time they became still more happy in having a little son to whom they gave the name Te-lem'a-chus.

But the happiness of the young king and queen of Ithaca was not of long duration. When Agamemnon and the other chiefs of Hellas had completed their preparations for war against Troy, they summoned Ulysses to join them, in accordance with the oath which he as well as all the other Greek princes had taken at the time of the marriage of Helen and Menelaus. Ulysses was very unwilling to leave his wife and son, whom he tenderly loved.

A soothsayer had told him that if he went to the war he would not return for twenty years; and so he paid no attention to the call of the commander-in-chief. Then Agamemnon resolved to go himself to Ithaca to use his personal influence with the unwilling Ulysses, who even at that time was well known all over Greece, not only as a valiant soldier but as a man skilled in all kinds of strategy or artifice.

This sort of wisdom, called cunning or craft, was indeed the quality for which Ulysses was most celebrated; and it was a quality highly esteemed in ancient times, for it made men better able to defend themselves against enemies in war. Homer hardly ever mentions the king of Ithaca except with some expression designating his well-known character, such as "the crafty Ulysses" or "the very shrewd Ulysses," or "the man of many arts."

Ulysses, man of many arts,
Son of Laertes, reared in Ithaca,
That rugged isle, and skilled in every form
Of shrewd device, and action wisely planned.

BRYANT, *Iliad*, Book III.

Such a man as this could not well be spared from the great war, and so Agamemnon went to Ithaca to persuade Ulysses to join the expedition against



Ulysses Feigning Madness.

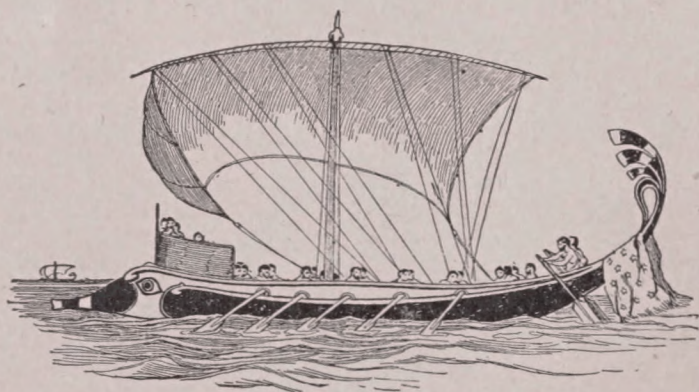
Troy. He took with him his brother Menelaus and a chief named Pal-a-me'des, who was also very shrewd and crafty, as we shall presently see.

When Ulysses heard of their arrival in Ithaca, he attempted to deceive them by a trick quite in keeping with his character. He pretended to be insane, and in order to make Agamemnon and his companions believe that he was really mad, he set about plowing the beach at the seaside with a horse and an ox yoked together, and brought salt to scatter over the plowed sand, as if it were seed corn.

But Palamedes saw through this artful scheme, and by another device equally shrewd he proved that Ulysses was only feigning madness. He took the young Telemachus down to the beach, and laid him on the sand just in front of the father's plow. Ulysses instantly turned the team aside so as not to injure his child, and by so doing showed that he was in his full senses.

His pretense of madness thus exposed, Ulysses had no reasonable excuse for remaining at home, so he was obliged to consent to join his brother princes in their expedition against Troy. And having resolved to do so, he set about his preparations with spirit and energy. He got together a number of brave men from the neighboring islands that were subject to his rule, and in a fleet

of twelve ships or galleys with a hundred soldiers in each, he set sail for Au'lis, on the eastern coast of Greece, where the other chiefs and kings had already assembled their forces. When Ulysses arrived he found a vast fleet numbering more than a thousand ships in the harbor of Aulis and along the shores. This fleet carried a hundred thousand men, with Agamemnon as their general, across the sea to the opposite coast of Asia. Then began the Trojan War, which is so much celebrated by the poets and historians of ancient times.



II. THE WOODEN HORSE.

DURING the ten years' siege of Troy Ulysses performed many great deeds of valor, but it was by his various artifices that he did best service against the enemy. One of his most noted achievements was the stealing of the Pal-la'di-um from the citadel of Troy. The Palladium was a wooden statue of the goddess Minerva (called by the Greeks Pal'las). It was said to have dropped down from heaven in front of the tent of Ilus when he was about to begin the building of the city. On the spot where he found the statue he built the citadel or fort, and here the Palladium was kept with great care, for the Trojans believed that on its preservation depended the safety of their city and country.

Ulysses learned from a soothsayer that Troy could not be taken while the Palladium remained within its walls, and so he resolved to steal it. With this purpose he entered the city, after deceiving the guards at the gate by representing himself as a Greek slave escaping from his master who had cruelly ill-treated him.

“He had given himself
Unseemly stripes, and o’er his shoulders flung
Vile garments like a slave’s, and entered thus
The enemy’s town, and walked its spacious streets.
Another man he seemed in that disguise.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IV.

Helen saw and recognized Ulysses in his disguise, and she had a secret meeting with him and told him how to get the Palladium; for she now repented of her folly, and longed to get back to her home and husband in Sparta.

“I already longed
For my old home, and deeply I deplored
The evil fate that Venus brought on me,
Who led me thither from my own dear land,
And from my lawful spouse.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IV.

After getting from Helen the information about the statue, Ulysses contrived to leave the city without being recognized. In a few days he returned, accompanied by Diomedes. They entered the city by scaling the walls at night; Diomedes climbed on the shoulders of Ulysses and made his way into the citadel; there he found the Palladium, and he and Ulysses carried it off to the Greek camp.

The sacred Palladium being gone, Troy no longer had the protection of Minerva, who now inspired Ulysses with the idea of the wooden horse, through

which the city at last fell into the hands of the Greeks. This horse was of immense size, large enough for a hundred men to hide within its body. When it was completed, Ulysses and Menelaus, and several other Greek heroes, went into it by a trap-door on its side, and the door was fastened on the outside. Then all the other Greeks went aboard their ships and sailed away, leaving the wooden horse on the plain before the city.

Great was the joy of the Trojans when from their battlements and towers they beheld the enemy depart as they thought forever. Immediately the gates were thrown open, and the citizens, with King Priam at their head, crowded out into the plain in great numbers.

Their attention was soon attracted by the wooden horse, and they wondered much what it meant. Many opinions were given as to what should be done with it. Some thought it could be intended for no good to Troy, and that it should be burned. Others thought it should be dragged into the city. Hearing the latter proposal, La-oc'o-ön, a son of Priam, and a priest of Apollo, cried out in words of warning:

“What folly is this, O men of Troy! Are you so simple as to believe that the enemy is really gone, and to suppose that there is no treacherous

design in this horse? Either Greeks are concealed in it, or it is meant for some evil to our city. Whatever it may be, I fear the Greeks even when they bring gifts."

Thus speaking Laocoön hurled his spear against the side of the horse, and it sent forth a sound as of a deep groan from men within.

"Against the steed he threw
His forceful spear, which hissing as it flew,
Pierced through the yielding planks of jointed wood,
And trembling in the hollow belly stood.
The sides transpierced return a rattling sound
And groans of Greeks inclosed come issuing through the wound."

VERGIL, *Æneid*, Book II.

But just then a stranger who appeared to be a Greek was brought before the king. Being asked who he was, he said that his name was Si'non, that he had been condemned to be offered up by the Greeks as a sacrifice to the gods, and that to escape death he had fled, and concealed himself during the night in the reeds on the river banks. When asked about the horse and for what purpose it was erected, he answered that it was a peace offering to the goddess Minerva, in atonement for the crime of Ulysses and Diomedes in carrying off her statue from Troy. He said moreover that a soothsayer had advised the Greeks to make the

horse of enormous size so that the Trojans could not get it within their walls, for if they took it into the city, it would be a protection to them forever, but if they did any violence to it, ruin would come upon the kingdom of Priam and his people.

No sooner had Sinon ceased speaking than the eyes of the multitude were attracted by a fearful spectacle. Two huge serpents were seen gliding up from the sea, and seizing and crushing to death in their dreadful coils the priest Laocoön and his two sons while engaged at an altar on the beach, offering sacrifice to the gods.

“First round his two young sons they wreathe,
And grind their limbs with savage teeth ;
Then, as with arms he comes to aid,
The wretched father they invade
And twine in giant folds.”

VERGIL, *Æneid*, Book II.

This terrible fate of Laocoön was understood by the Trojans as a punishment from heaven for his impious violence upon the wooden horse, which they now believed to be a sacred thing. With one voice they resolved to drag the huge figure into the city. This they did after attaching rollers to its feet and strong ropes to its limbs, and breaking down a portion of the wall to admit it, for it was too large to get it in by the gate.



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Laocoön.

Then they placed the wooden horse in the citadel amid universal acclamations, and chiefs and people spent the remainder of the day feasting and rejoicing. They retired to rest in the happy belief that at last the war was over, and their homes and country free from the danger of destruction which had so long threatened them.

But very soon King Priam and his people were roused from slumber by the clash of arms and the shouts of the triumphant Greeks. For in the dead of night the treacherous Sinon opened the trap-door in the wooden horse, and Ulysses and his companions came forth into the streets of Troy. Sinon also lighted a fire on the beach, as a signal to Agamemnon and his great army, who had gone only as far as Ten'e-dos, an island three miles from the shore. Quickly the fleet returned and quickly the Greeks by thousands poured into the city.

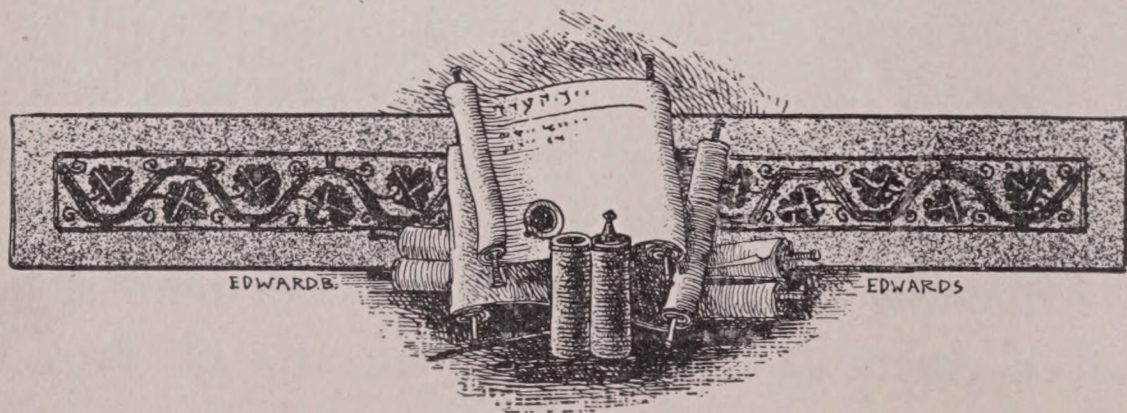
King Priam and most of the male members of his family were slain without mercy. Paris had been killed some time before the erection of the wooden horse. Æneas escaped, and with a number of followers had many adventures by sea and land in a voyage to Italy where, it is said, his descendants became the founders of Rome.

After the slaughter of the Trojan heroes, the Greek chiefs carried off the treasures of Troy to

their ships, each getting his share of the rich spoil. Then they set fire to the city, which in a few hours was reduced to a mass of ruins.

Thus ended the celebrated Trojan War. The surviving Greek heroes set out for home with hopes which for many of them were never realized. Some perished at sea. Agamemnon safely arrived at his city of Mycenæ, but was there treacherously slain by Æ-gis'thus whom his wife had married in his absence. The venerable Nestor, the oldest of all the Greek warriors, returned without misfortune or accident, and ended his days in peace in his kingdom of Py'los. Menelaus pardoned his wife Helen and took her with him to Sparta which, however, they did not reach for some years.

But none of all the chiefs of Hellas who fought at Troy encountered such perils or endured such sufferings in returning home as the famous Ulysses, whose adventures will be related in the succeeding chapters.



III. AMONG THE CICONIANS.

THE adventures of Ulysses after the Trojan War are related in the *Odyssey* of Homer. As is usual in epic poems, that is, poems which tell about great actions of heroes, the *Odyssey* begins by invoking the aid of the Muse, or goddess of poetry.

Tell me, O Muse, of that sagacious man
Who, having overthrown the sacred town
Of Ilium, wandered far and visited
The capitals of many nations, learned
The customs of their dwellers, and endured
Great suffering on the deep ; his life was oft
In peril, as he labored to bring back
His comrades to their homes.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book I.

Very soon after leaving Troy, Ulysses began to encounter misfortunes. He sailed away with the twelve ships in which he had set forth from Ithaca ten years before, but he had not so many of his brave men, for at least one half of them had perished in the war.

At the very outset of their voyage they met with unfavorable winds. Their proper course, as you

will see by looking at the map, would have been south — through the Ægean Sea, round the southern point of Greece, and along the west coast to Ithaca. But instead of being able to take this route the fleet of Ulysses was driven northwest to the coast of Thrace, to the land of the Ci-co'ni-ans, whose chief town was Is'ma-rus.

The Ciconians had been friends of Troy, and therefore Ulysses landed with his men and attacked and captured their city. He divided among his followers the rich spoils he found there, and then he ordered them to fly to their ships. But the foolish Ith'a-cans lingered on the shore feasting on the beef and wine and the other good things they had taken from Ismarus.

Meanwhile, the Ciconians sent for help to their neighbors in the interior, and great numbers from all quarters speedily answered the call.

“In swarms they came,
Thick as new leaves or morning flowers in spring.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

Ulysses and his unfortunate A-cha'ians, as the Greeks were sometimes called, had now to fight for their lives, and after a fierce battle which lasted a whole day they were forced to take refuge in their ships.

“ While yet ’twas morning, and the holy light
 Of day waxed brighter, we withstood the assault
 And kept our ground, although more numerous they.
 But when the sun was sloping toward the west
 The enemy prevailed ; the Achaian band
 Was routed, and was made to flee. That day
 There perished from each galley of our fleet
 Six valiant men ; the rest escaped with life.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

Six men from each ship, is the poet’s way of telling the number of the Greeks who were killed in this battle, but doubtless the meaning is an average of six, which would make seventy-two altogether. Lamenting their dear companions thus lost, the Ithacans hastened their departure from the land of the Ciconians.



IV. THE LOTUS-EATERS.

THE fleet of Ulysses was hardly out of sight of Ci-co'ni-a when a terrific hurricane, sent by Jupiter, shattered the sails so that the sailors had to haul them down and run their galleys for safety to the nearest coast on the Greek mainland. Here they were obliged to remain two days under stress of weather. The storm having then abated they again set sail, and steering south with a favorable wind they came to Cape Ma-le'a, the southernmost extremity of the Pel-o-pon-ne'sus. They hoped to round this point and soon reach their beloved Ithaca; but once more they were overtaken by a furious wind, which drove them past the island of Cy-the'ra and over the sea, they knew not where, for nine days and nine nights.

On the tenth morning they came to the land of the Lo-top'h'a-gi, or Lo'tus-eaters, on the north coast of Af'ri-ca. These people lived on the flower of the lotus plant as their food; and wonderful food it was, for any stranger who tasted of it forgot his country and his home, and desired no greater happiness than to remain forever among the Lotophagi, eating the delicious flower.

“Whoever tasted once of that sweet food
 Wished not to see his native country more
 Nor give his friends the knowledge of his fate.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

The Ithacans went ashore for water and they had their evening meal on the beach. Then Ulysses sent three of his men into the country to ascertain whether there were any inhabitants, and if so what sort of people they were. But as the men did not return, Ulysses, with some of his companions, went in search of them. He found them seated among a company of the Lotophagi, who had received them with kindness and given them freely of their tempting food. The Greeks were enjoying it so much that they had no wish to rejoin their friends or to sail any more on the sea.

Most weary seemed the sea, weary the oar,
 Weary the wandering fields of barren foam,
 Then some one said, “We will return no more ;”
 And all at once they sang, “Our island home
 Is far beyond the wave ; we will no longer roam.”

TENNYSON, *The Lotus-Eaters*.

Ulysses had to carry off his men by force and bind them fast in one of the ships, and they wept bitterly because they were not permitted to dwell for the remainder of their lives in the happy land of the Lotus-eaters.

V. THE LAND OF THE CYCLOPS.

AFTER going on board their ships, the Ithacans hastened away from the shores of the Lotophagi, and sailed westward until they came to the land of the Cy'clops.

Where this land was is not now exactly known, but the Cyclops were a strange people who did not live as other men. They had no laws. They did not plow or dig the ground or sow seed or plant anything in the fields. But in their land there was plenty of corn and vines. These grew without being sown or planted, and the vines produced rich clusters of grapes which gave good wine.

“The country of the Cyclops, an untamed
And lawless race, who, trusting to the gods,
Plant not, nor plow the fields, but all things spring
From them untended, — barley, wheat, and vines
Yielding large clusters filled with wine.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

The Cyclops held no councils together. They dwelt in caves at the mountain tops, each by himself with his wife and children, if he had any, and

ruling his family as he pleased. They cared little for one another.

Outside the port of entrance to the land of the Cyclops there was a woody island in which there were great numbers of wild goats. It was a very beautiful island, with soft, green meadows stretching along the shore, but there were no men there to plow or sow; nor were there any sheep or cattle to graze in the beautiful meadows. The island was inhabited only by goats, and no hunters came to disturb them, for the Cyclops had no ships and held no communication with other countries.

“The Cyclops have no barks with crimson prows,
Nor shipwrights skilled to frame a galley’s deck
With benches for the rowers, and equipped
For any service, voyaging by turns
To all the cities, as is often done
By men who cross the deep from place to place,
And make a prosperous region of an isle.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

There was a good harbor in the island where ships, even without anchors, might be safe from storms. At the head of the harbor was a cave in a rock from which sprung a fountain of clear water, and poplars grew around it.

The fleet of Ulysses approached this island as if guided by the gods, for it was night and there

was a dense mist, and the Ithacans did not see the land until their galleys touched the shore. Then they disembarked and slept on the beach till morning.

At dawn of day they arose, and soon they beheld flocks of goats which the woodland nymphs, daughters of Jove, had roused from their resting places that the strangers might have their morning meal. The crew divided themselves into hunting parties, and they were so successful with their bows and arrows and long javelins that they killed goats enough to allot nine to each galley and ten to that of their chief.

Then they feasted on roast meat and good red wine. As they sat upon the grass looking toward the mainland they saw smoke issuing from mountain caves. They also heard the bleating of sheep, and voices as of men, and they wondered what it might be, for they did not know whether the place was inhabited by human beings.



VI. IN THE CYCLOPS' CAVE.

NEXT morning Ulysses resolved to go over to the mainland to see if there were any men in that country, and to find out of what race they might be. So taking with him a number of his companions in his own galley, and ordering the others to remain in the little island haven until he should return, he steered for the opposite coast.

When they reached the shore, they saw a cave in a high hill not far from the sea. It had a lofty entrance, with laurels growing over and about it, and in front there was a large court inclosed by a wall built of rough stones, and having around it tall pine and oak trees.

In this cave dwelt a giant of enormous size. His name was Pol-y-phe'mus. He lived by himself and tended his herds of goats and sheep apart from others of the Cyclops race.

“A giant shepherd here his flock maintains
Far from the rest, and solitary reigns,
In shelter thick of horrid shade reclined;
And gloomy mischiefs labor in his mind.

A form enormous ! far unlike the race
Of human birth, in stature, or in face."

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

Ulysses with twelve of his bravest companions, whom he selected to accompany him, went forward to explore the cave. They carried with them a supply of food and a goatskin of wine. This wine was very strong and of rich flavor. It was part of what Ulysses had got at Ismarus from the priest Ma'ron, whom he had saved from death, with his wife and children. In gratitude to the Ithacan chief the priest gave him presents of gold and silver and twelve casks of rich wine, "a divine drink," as the poet describes it. So strong it was indeed that Maron never gave any of it to his own people without mixing it with much water.

"Whensoever

They drank this rich red wine, he only filled
A single cup with wine, and tempered that
With twenty more of water."

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

The prudent Ulysses thought it well to have some of this wine on his expedition to the cave. "No doubt," said he to himself, "we may meet with some men, strong and fierce, having no sense of

justice or right, and good wine may make them friendly to us."

When they entered the cave they found no one in it. The giant was away in the mountains attending to his flocks. But they saw baskets around filled with cheeses, and pens with lambs and kids placed according to their age, the older in a pen by themselves, the younger in another, and the very youngest in a third. There were pails of milk, too, rich with cream, and bowls into which the giant milked his sheep and goats.

The companions of Ulysses did not like the appearance of the place and they wanted to return immediately to their galley. It would have been better for them if they had done so; but Ulysses wished to see what sort of man he was who dwelt in that strange place, and whether he would give them friendly hospitality, so he decided to remain in the cave for a while.

Then they made a fire and burned some of the cheese as a sacrifice to the gods. They ate some cheese, too, after which they sat down and waited for the arrival of the master of the cave.

He came in the evening bearing on his shoulder a great bundle of firewood which he threw on the ground outside the door, making such a crash that Ulysses and his companions ran in terror into a

corner of the cave. Then he drove in the sheep and goats that gave milk, leaving the others in the court without, and he stopped up the entrance with a rock so huge and heavy that a score of four-wheeled wagons could not move it.

The giant now sat down and milked his sheep and goats. Half the milk he curdled and put into vessels for cheese; the other half he set aside in bowls to drink at his supper. When he had finished this work he made a fire, and the cave being thus lighted up, the giant caught sight of the strangers. He immediately spoke to them, asking who they were, where they came from, and what was their business. His deep voice resounded through the cavern like thunder, and his form was frightful to behold, such a monster was he in size. Nevertheless Ulysses took courage to reply.

"We are of Greece," he said, "and we come from Troy, driven by storms over many seas. We fought under Agamemnon, that great king whose fame has spread to every land under heaven, so mighty was the city he destroyed and so many warriors did he slay. In the name of the gods and of Jupiter, who protects strangers and avenges their wrongs, we ask of you the hospitality due to strangers."

But Polyphemus had little respect for the gods and so he answered:

“How foolish thou art, O stranger, to speak to me in the name of the gods. We Cyclops care not for the gods, for we are better than they. Nor would I, through fear of Jupiter, spare thee or thy companions if my will were not so inclined. But tell me, for I desire to know, where hast thou left thy ship? Is it near, or in a distant port of the island?”

The shrewd Ithacan understood the purpose of these questions and returned a deceitful answer.

“King Neptune has broken my ships against the rocks on the coast of this land of thine,” said he, “and I and my companions here have with difficulty escaped destruction.”

To this Polyphemus made no answer, but rushing forward, seized two of the comrades of Ulysses together and, striking them with a huge rock, killed them instantly. Then the cruel monster proceeded to make a meal of the bodies.

“He hewed them limb from limb for his repast,
And, like a lion of the mountain wilds,
Devoured them as they were, and left no part,—
Entrails nor flesh nor marrowy bones.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

The Ithacans, beholding this terrible deed, held up their hands to heaven and wept aloud in grief



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Cruelty of Polyphemus.

and despair. But the savage Cyclops paid no heed to their cries. He finished his horrid meal with large draughts of milk, after which he stretched himself on the floor and was soon fast asleep.

The first impulse of Ulysses was to plunge his sword through the heart of the sleeping monster, but presently he thought of the huge rock at the door. It fitted close as a door on hinges, and how could they remove it and get out of the cave if the giant were dead? There was nothing for them to do but to wait, and so with sad hearts and sleepless eyes they waited for the morning.



VII. POLYPHEMUS PUNISHED.

POLYPHEMUS was up at early dawn. First he made a fire, and after milking his sheep and goats as on the previous night, he seized two more of the unhappy Greeks and devoured them for his morning meal. Then he moved the great stone from the entrance and drove his flocks to pasture for the day. But before leaving he took care to replace the rock at the door so that his prisoners might not be able to escape.

As soon as the Cyclops had departed, Ulysses set his mind to thinking how he might punish the monster, and save himself and his companions from the frightful death that awaited them all if they should have to remain much longer the guests of Polyphemus.

Now there lay on the floor of the cave a huge club or pole of newly cut olive wood, which the giant had intended when dried to use as a walking cane. It was as thick and as long as the mast of a ship. Ulysses cut off a piece six feet in length, and he and his companions sharpened it to a point at the top. Then they put the sharpened end into

the fire, and when it became dry and hard they took it out and covered it with some rubbish that lay in the cave.

The plan of Ulysses was to blind the monster by thrusting this sharp stake into his eye while asleep. Four of the men were chosen by lot to assist their chief in the dangerous enterprise, and then they waited for the coming of the giant.

In the evening he came as before, and he drove all his flock into the cave, the rams as well as the sheep and goats. He also closed up the entrance with the great rock, and after performing his usual work of milking, he seized and devoured two more of the unfortunate Ithacans. Ulysses now prepared to carry out his plan. First he filled a cup with wine from his goatskin, and presenting it to the monster as he sat on the ground, said:

“O Cyclops, take this wine and drink. I bring it to thee as an offering that thou mayest have pity, and let us depart to our home in safety. How canst thou expect other men to come and see thee, when thou hast dealt so cruelly with us?”

The giant drank off the wine, and he liked it so well that he asked for more.

“Give me more of this drink,” he said, “and tell me thy name, and I will bestow on thee a gift that will please thee. The Cyclops have good wine,

but not so good as this, which in truth is like the nectar of the gods."

The cup was filled a second and a third time, and the monster drank greedily. Soon the strong wine began to get to his head. Then the wily Ulysses spoke, saying:

"Thou didst ask of me my name, O Cyclops. I will tell it to thee, so that thou mayest give me a good gift as thou hast promised. My name is No'man. It is the name my father and mother gave me, and so all my friends call me."

"Noman!" said the giant, "then I shall eat thee the last of all thy band. This shall be my gift in return for thy wine."

As he spoke these words he sank back on the floor, overcome with the wine, and soon he fell into a deep sleep. Then Ulysses and four of his companions, who had been chosen by lot, raised the pole of olive wood, and put the sharp end of it into the burning cinders. And when it was almost blazing they took it out and thrust the red-hot point of it into the giant's eye, for he had but one, which was of great size and set in the middle of his forehead.

The monster howled frightfully, and he drew the stake from his eye and hurled it madly across the floor. Then he jumped to his feet, roaring loudly

and calling to his brother Cyclops, who dwelt in neighboring caves. They knew his voice, and quickly they came crowding around the door. Then one of them inquired:

“What hurts thee, Polyphemus, that thou dost thus disturb our sleep with thy cries? Has any one tried to kill thee?”

“O my friends,” answered Polyphemus, “it is Noman who tried to kill me by cunning; he could not do it by force.”

“Huge Polyphemus answered from his den:—

‘O friends, ’tis Noman who is killing me;

By treachery Noman kills me; none by force.’”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

“If that be so,” said the other Cyclops, “if no man hurts thee, what help canst thou have from us? Thy trouble doubtless is sent by the gods. Then pray to thy father Neptune for help.”

So saying, he departed with his brother giants, and they returned to their mountain dens, while Ulysses rejoiced at the success of his trick.

“In my heart

I laughed to think that by the name I took,

And by my shrewd device, I had deceived

The Cyclops.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

Meanwhile the light of morning began to appear. Polyphemus, groaning with pain, removed the stone

from the door as usual. Then he cunningly sat down at the entrance and groped with his hands to catch any of the Greeks who should attempt to get out with the sheep.

Once more, however, the crafty Ulysses was able to outwit the Cyclops. It was fortunate for him that the rams had been taken into the cave the night before. They were large and strong animals, and had thick woolly fleeces. Ulysses placed a number of them three by three abreast, and bound them together by osier twigs which the giant had in his cave to make his bed with. Then under the middle ram of each three Ulysses tied one of his companions. For himself he chose the finest and largest ram of all, and binding one on each side of it, he crept down under it, and clung tightly to its fleece with both hands and feet.

By this time the sheep had begun to leave the cave. Polyphemus with outstretched hands felt their backs as they passed; but the Greeks being underneath, escaped his touch, and got safely through. The ram to which Ulysses clung was the last to come, and it moved slowly. It was the giant's favorite of all his flock, and he knew it by the touch and spoke to it.

“My favorite ram, why art thou thus the last to leave to-day? Hitherto thou hast not been behind



Escape of the Greeks from Polyphemus.

the others, but the first to hasten to the green pastures and the fresh streams. Perhaps thou art grieving for thy master whose eye this wicked Noman has put out. If thou wert able to speak and tell me where he hides, I would dash his brains upon the ground and thus make him pay for the evil he has done to me."

Polyphemus then let the ram pass on. As soon as the flock had gone a little way from the cave, Ulysses quickly got to his feet and unbound his companions. Then they drove off a number of the fat sheep to their galley.

Their comrades, who had been waiting in anxiety, welcomed them joyfully, but they grieved when they heard of the sad fate of those who had perished in the giant's cave. They would have wept aloud, but Ulysses forbade it, warning them that their cries might bring the Cyclops down upon them. After getting the sheep into the galley, they all hastened on board, and the men plied their oars with vigor. When they were some distance from land, but not too far for a voice to be heard on the shore, Ulysses shouted out to the giant, who was then stalking on the beach:

"O Cyclops, those whom thou didst devour in thy den were the friends of one who was able to avenge them. By my hands the gods have

punished thee for thy cruelty to strangers and guests."

These words enraged the monster so that in his fury he wrenched off the top of a mountain crag that stood near the water's edge and hurled it into the sea in the direction from which he had heard the voice of Ulysses. The huge rock fell close to the galley and raised a great wave which swept the vessel back almost to the land.

"From a mountain peak he wrenched
Its summit, hurling it to fall beside
Our galley, where it almost touched the helm.
The rock dashed high the water where it fell,
And the returning billow swept us back
And toward the shore."

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

Ulysses seized a long pole and pushed the galley again into deep water, and when they were some distance from land he once more shouted to the Cyclops. His friends tried to prevent him from provoking the savage a second time.

"What boots the godless giant to provoke,
Whose arm may sink us at a single stroke?
Already when the dreadful rock he threw,
Old Ocean shook, and back his surges flew."

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book IX.

But Ulysses would not be advised or hindered, and so he shouted to the giant in a loud voice:

“Cyclops, if any man inquire about thy blindness and ask the cause, say it was done by Ulysses, the son of Laertes, who dwells in Ithaca.”

When the giant heard this he wailed aloud and exclaimed :

“Alas! the oracles of old have come true. There dwelt a prophet here among the Cyclops, a good and great man, Tel’e-mus Eu-rym’e-des, who told me that I should be deprived of my sight by Ulysses. I thought, indeed, that the man would be one of great stature and mighty strength, whereas now a mere weakling has done it by a trick and not by force. But come back Ulysses that I may give thee suitable presents. And Neptune, at my entreaty, may guide thee to thy home in safety, for he is my father. Perhaps, too, he will cure me of my blindness.”

But Ulysses was not so foolish as to place himself again in the power of the terrible Polyphemus, and so he answered :

“Rather would I destroy thy life, O Cyclops, if I could do it, and send thee to the region of Hades where not even Neptune could cure thee.”

Then Polyphemus stretching forth his hands to heaven, prayed aloud to Neptune :

“Hear me, O Neptune, if indeed I am thy son and thou dost own thyself to be my father. Grant



Ulysses Defying Polyphemus.

that this Ulysses may never see his native land. But if he do return to his country and family may it be only after losing all his companions, and may he find sorrow in his home."

When he had finished his prayer, the Cyclops took up another huge rock, and whirling it round, he cast it with terrific force in the direction of the galley. It fell close behind the vessel and raised a great wave, almost mountain high. But fortunately for the Ithacans this wave drove their galley rapidly forward toward the little haven in the outer island where the other ships were stationed. They soon reached the fleet and rejoined their friends, who welcomed them joyfully, for they had almost despaired of ever seeing them again.

The sheep carried off from Polyphemos were divided equally among all the galleys, and to Ulysses was given the ram which had carried him safely out of the cave of the Cyclops. He offered it as a sacrifice to Jupiter. Then they all feasted together on roast flesh and good wine and at night they lay down to sleep on the shore.



VIII. THE KING OF THE WINDS.

EARLY in the morning, Ulysses and his companions went aboard their galleys and sailed away from the land of the Cyclops. In a short time they came to the island of Æ-o'li-a. Here dwelt Æ'o-lus, king of the winds. The island was surrounded by a wall of brass and there were smooth rocks along the shores.

Æolus had six sons and six daughters, and he and his queen and their sons and daughters feasted every day at grand banquets where they had the richest food and the most delicious drinks, while through the palace halls the sound of music was heard, and the air was fragrant with sweet odors.

“All day they feast, all day the bowls flow round
And joy and music through the isle resound.”

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book X.

Æolus entertained the Ithacans hospitably for a month. He inquired about Troy and the war, and Ulysses told him how the city had been taken, and related to him his own adventures. And when the

Greek chief expressed a wish to proceed on his journey homeward, the king of the winds gave him a skin bag in which he had bound up all the winds that could hinder him on his voyage. But the west wind he left free to waft the wanderers speedily to their native country. Æolus himself tied the skin bag in the galley of Ulysses with a silver cord, and fastened it so well at the mouth that not a breath of the contrary winds could escape.

For nine days and nine nights they sailed until they came in sight of the long-sought Ithaca. They were so near it that they could distinguish lights on the shore. Just then Ulysses lay down to rest and he soon fell into a heavy sleep, for he was exhausted with long watching and labor, as he had worked at the rudder himself for several days, so eager was he to reach his beloved island.

While he thus lay sleeping some of his companions talked about the gift of Æolus. They thought that the bag contained rich presents which Ulysses meant to keep all for himself.

"Doubtless," said they, "it contains gold and silver. Come, let us see how much there is in it."

Without another word they untied and opened the bag. Instantly the winds rushed furiously forth, and whirling round the ships, drove them far out into the sea.

“They untied the sack
And straight the winds rushed forth and seized the ships,
And swept the crews, lamenting bitterly,
Far from their country out upon the deep.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book X.

The cries of the men awoke Ulysses and when he found what had happened, he was so overwhelmed with grief that he thought for a moment of casting himself overboard and putting an end to his life in the depths of the sea. But he quickly dismissed the evil temptation and resolved to endure his misfortunes patiently. So he wrapped himself up in his cloak and sat down in his ship while the storm raged around him.

The fleet was driven back to Æolia, and the Ithacans went ashore and refreshed themselves with food and drink. Ulysses then proceeded once more to the palace of Æolus, taking with him two of his companions.

They found the king feasting with his family. He was astonished to behold his late visitors so soon again, and he inquired how it was that they had not reached their home. Ulysses related what had happened, and begged Æolus to help him again. But the king was very angry and in a stern voice he replied:

“Away! Betake thyself quickly from this island.

I must not again aid one who is hated by the blessed gods, as surely thou art hated."

"Hence with thee! Leave our island instantly:
Vilest of living men! It may not be
That I receive or aid as he departs
One who is hated by the blessed gods,—
And thou art hated by the gods. Away!"

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book X.

Ulysses and his companions at once departed, and sorrowfully they rejoined their comrades at the shore. Then all embarked in the ships, and they sailed away from the island of the King of the Winds.



IX. AMONG THE LÆSTRYGONIANS.

FOR six days and nights they sailed, and on the seventh they came to La'mos, a city of the Læs-try-go'ni-ans. In that country the sheep and the cattle grazed in the same pastures, the one by day and the other by night, so that if a man could do without sleep, he might earn double pay.

“There might a man who never yields to sleep
Earn double wages, first in pasturing herds,
And then in tending sheep ; for there the fields
Grazed in the daytime are by others grazed
At night.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book X.

There was a good harbor in this place, with lofty cliffs on each side and a narrow mouth. Ulysses made his galley fast to a rock outside, but the others entered the harbor where the water was calm and smooth. Then he sent two of his men with a herald to inquire what race of people inhabited the land. They found a good road leading to the city, and on their way they met a young woman carrying water. She was the daughter of An-tiph'-a-tes, king of the country, and in answer to their inquiries she showed them her father's palace.

They entered the building, and there they saw the wife of Antiphates, a woman of gigantic size, — “tall as a mountain peak,” — and they shuddered with fear as they beheld her. She immediately called her husband, the king, and when he came, he instantly seized one of the Ithacans and slew him on the spot. The two others fled in terror to the ships.

Then Antiphates shouted in a voice as loud as thunder which was heard throughout the city, and his Læstrygonians — giants like himself — rushed forth in great numbers and hurled huge rocks from the cliffs upon the fleet of the Greeks. They broke all the galleys to pieces and killed the men, spearing them like fishes, and then carried their bodies away to be devoured.

“They speared our friends
Like fishes for their horrid feasts ; and thus
Bore them away.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book X.

But the galley of Ulysses and those who were with him in it escaped, for they were outside the harbor and were not seen by the giants. They could do nothing to help their friends, so they vigorously plied their oars and were soon beyond the reach of the terrible Læstrygonians.

X. IN CIRCE'S ISLE.

AFTER they got out to sea, Ulysses and his surviving companions sailed onward until they came to the island of Æ-æ'a. Here dwelt the goddess Cir'ce, daughter of the Sun. They soon found a good haven where they went ashore and as they were much fatigued they rested on the beach for two days.

On the third day Ulysses took his spear and sword and went up a hill to find if there were any signs that the island was inhabited by men. When he got to the top and looked around he saw smoke coming from a house in the middle of a forest. This was the palace of Circe.

Ulysses was about to go straight to the palace, but after thinking awhile it seemed to him better to send some of his men to examine the place and make inquiries. As he was returning to the shore a large stag, on its way to drink at a stream, ran into his very path. Ulysses hurled his spear at the animal and pierced it through the body. Then he bound its feet together with osier twigs and carried it on his shoulders to his companions, who were

astonished at its size. That evening they feasted on the flesh of the stag, and they reposed for the night on the beach.

In the morning Ulysses told his people that the place where they were was an island, for from the top of the hill he had seen the sea all round it. He also told them of the palace and the smoke. They were much troubled at this and they wept aloud, thinking of their lost comrades and of the terrible Cyclops and Læstrygonians. But Ulysses encouraged them with comforting words.

Then he divided his whole company into two parties with a chief for each — himself for one and Eu-ryl'o-chus for the other, and they cast lots to decide which should go to the palace in the woods, to inquire who dwelt there. The lot fell on Eurylochus, and so he set out with his party of twenty-two.

They were not long in coming to the house of Circe. It was a beautiful house built of polished stone. About the door were several wolves and lions, but they were quite tame and did not hurt the strangers. They only wagged their tails and fawned upon the men as a dog fawns upon his master.

When Eurylochus and his companions reached the door they heard the sweet voice of Circe sing-

ing as she weaved at her loom in one of the halls of her palace:

“They heard
Her sweet voice singing, as within she threw
The shuttle through the wide immortal web,
Such as is woven by the goddesses, —
Delicate, bright of hue, and beautiful.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book X.

As soon as the goddess learned that there were strangers at the door she came forth and invited them to enter. They all did so except Eurylochus, who suspected treachery, and so remained outside.

Circe led the others into the palace and seated them on thrones. Then she gave them cheese and honey to eat and good wine to drink. But in the wine she had put a drug which made any one who tasted it lose all thought of country or home. As soon as the Ithacans drank of this wine Circe waved her wand over their heads, and instantly they were all changed into swine.

“She touched them with a wand, and shut them up
In sties, transformed to swine in head and voice,
Bristles and shape, though still the human mind
Remained to them.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book X.

Meanwhile Eurylochus, after waiting a long time at the door, returned to the ship and with tears in his eyes told of the disappearance of his compan-



Circe and the Swine.

ions. Ulysses resolved to go immediately in search of them, so he slung his bow and silver-hilted sword upon his shoulder, and set forth in the direction of the palace. He had not gone far when he met a youth of graceful mien who saluted him in a friendly manner. This was Mercury, the messenger of the gods, who had come down from Olympus to warn him against the wiles of Circe and to instruct him how to escape them.

"O rash man," said the heavenly messenger, "art thou going unaided to recover thy friends whom Circe has transformed into swine? Dost thou not fear that the same evil may befall thyself? But I will be thy protector. Take this drug and keep it about thee and her drink will do thee no hurt. When she smites thee with her wand, draw thy sword and rush forward as if to slay her. She will crave thy good will, but do thou not yield until she shall swear a great oath to do thee no wrong."

Then Mercury gave Ulysses an herb, the root of which was black, and the flower white as milk. This herb was called Mo'ly by the gods, and it was difficult for mortal man to find it or pluck it from the earth when found.

The divine messenger now returned to Olympus and Ulysses proceeded on his way to Circe's palace.

The goddess received him as she had received the others, and after giving him the same kind of drink, she waved her wand crying: "Away now to thy sty, and be as thy friends."

But instantly Ulysses rushed at her with his sword, and then in amazement and fear she threw herself at his knees and exclaimed:

"Who art thou and whence dost thou come? No other man before has taken of my wine and been able to resist my power. Art thou that Ulysses of whom the golden-wanded Mercury often told me that he would come here, on his way from Troy? If so, lay aside thy sword and let us be at peace with one another."

But Ulysses, not forgetting any part of the advice of Mercury, told her that she must take an oath not to do any evil against him. Circe immediately took the oath, and then she prepared a rich banquet, with meats of the choicest kinds, and invited Ulysses to eat. But he sat in silence and would not touch the food and when Circe noticed this, she said:

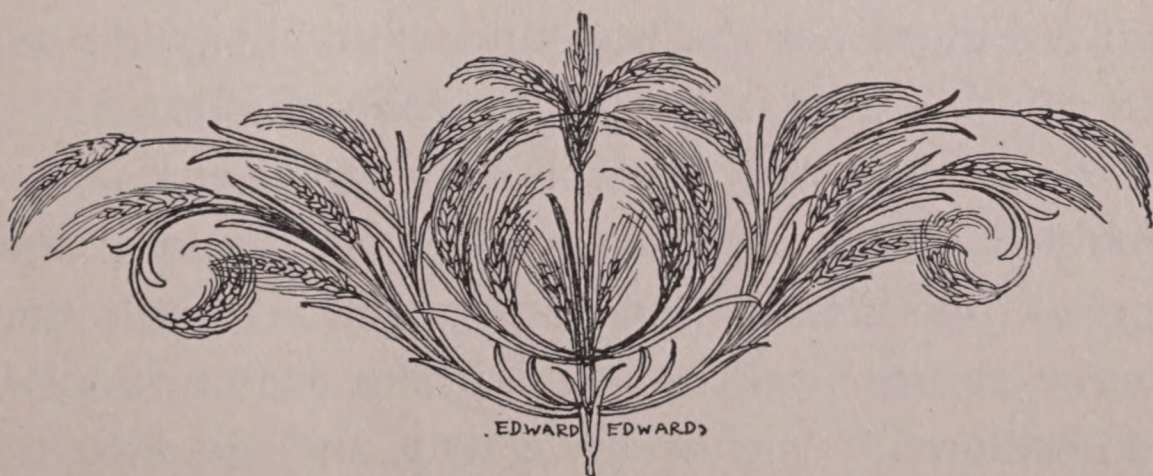
"O Ulysses, why dost thou sit as one dumb? And why wilt thou not eat and drink? Thou canst not fear evil from me now, since I have sworn a great oath to do thee no hurt?"

"O, Circe," answered Ulysses, "how can I enjoy

meat or drink until I see my dear companions? If thou dost desire me to partake of thy hospitality, first make me happy by giving to me my friends."

Circe immediately took her wand in her hand, and requesting Ulysses to accompany her, she went to the sty and drove out the swine. Then going among them she touched each with a magic drug. Instantly they resumed the forms of men, and they appeared much younger and stronger than they had been before they were turned into swine.

Great was their happiness at being delivered from their wretched condition and at seeing their beloved chief, whom they recognized at once and embraced with tears of joy. Circe herself shared in the rejoicings, and when she heard of the misfortunes and sufferings of the wanderers, she invited them all to come to her palace to remain as her guests until they should recruit their strength by rest from care and toil.



XI. IN THE REGIONS OF THE DEAD.

ULYSSES and his party stayed a full year in Circe's isle enjoying the hospitality of the goddess. Then they began to long for home, and begged Circe to permit them to depart. The goddess answered that she would not have them remain in her house against their will, but there was, she said, another journey they must make before they could reach their native land. They must visit the regions of the dead, the kingdom of Pluto, and his queen, Pros'er-pine, and there consult the spirit of the prophet Ti-re'si-as. To him, but to no other mortal, the gods had given after death the power to tell of future events.

Ulysses was almost heartbroken on hearing this. He wept aloud saying:

"We know not the way, and who will guide us? No ship has ever sailed to the realm of Pluto."

"Son of Laertes," answered the goddess, "be not troubled about a guide. Only raise thy mast, and spread thy sails, and the north wind shall waft thee to the shores of Proserpine, where are tall poplars and willows. Anchor thy galley and go into the

spacious land of Pluto. Thou shalt see there the dark stream of the Ach'e-ron and flowing into it, the fiery Phleg'e-thon, and the Co-cy'tus, an arm of the Styx.

“Near where the loud-resounding waters meet, dig a trench a cubit in length and width. Around it pour milk and honey and sweet wine as libations to the dead, and pray to the shades, promising that on thy return to Ithaca thou wilt sacrifice to them the best heifer of thy flock and a black ram to Tiresias. When thou hast offered up thy prayer, sacrifice a ram and a black sheep, with their faces toward the abodes of the dead, and bid thy friends flay and burn the bodies, after which pay worship to the mighty Pluto and the dread Proserpine.

“There shall then gather around thee multitudes of souls. None may speak with thee without tasting the blood of thy sacrifice, but draw thy sword and suffer none to touch the blood until thou shalt have seen and spoken with Tiresias. He will come and tell thee how thou mayest reach thy home over the measureless deep.”

The companions of Ulysses wept and tore their hair when they heard of the dangerous voyage they were now to undertake. But their chief encouraged them and they immediately began preparations for their departure. One of them, a youth named El-

pe'nor, had lain down to sleep in the cool air on the roof of the castle. The noise made by his companions awoke him, and he started to his feet and rushed forward to descend, but missing his step on the ladder, he fell to the ground and was killed.

When all was ready the party embarked and sailed away from Circe's fair island, sorrowing for their lost friend. The goddess sent after them a gentle wind which wafted their galley pleasantly along. By sundown, they came to the land of the Cim-me'ri-ans, on the confines of O-ce'an-us, the great water that inclosed the world around. The people there dwelt in eternal darkness. They never beheld the glorious sun, either in the morning when he ascended into the heavens or in the evening when he sank to rest.

“There in a lonely land, and gloomy cells,
The dusky nation of Cimmeria dwells ;
The sun ne'er views the uncomfortable seats,
When radiant he advances, or retreats :
Unhappy race ! whom endless night invades,
Clouds the dull air, and wraps them round in shades.”

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book XI.

Shortly afterward they reached the shore of the kingdom of Pluto. Ulysses followed the directions of Circe, and soon beheld the shades of the dead crowding round him in great numbers. There

were young wives and unwedded maidens, old men worn out with years and toil, and warriors in the armor of battle, bearing the marks of many wounds. Ulysses drew his sword and would suffer none to approach the blood until he had spoken with the renowned prophet.

But first the spirit of Elpenor advanced toward him. The youth was not as yet among the shades of Pluto's kingdom. None could be admitted there except those who had been buried, and his comrades, desiring to hasten their departure from the island of Circe, had left without performing his funeral rites.

“ He was not buried yet
In earth's broad bosom. We had left him dead
In Circe's halls, unwept and unentombed.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XI.

Elpenor, therefore, was at liberty to converse with Ulysses without touching the blood, and so he approached his old chief who spoke to him with tears of pity in his eyes.

“ O, Elpenor,” said he, “ thou hast come to these dark realms with more speed on foot than I in my swift galley.”

The spirit, answering mournfully, told Ulysses how he had fallen from the roof of Circe's palace. Then he begged him to give his body funeral rites,

for he knew that on their return from Hades the chief and his companions would again visit the Ææan isle.

“I conjure thee
That there, O king, thou wilt remember me,
And leave me not when thou departest thence
Unwept, unburied, lest I bring on thee
The anger of the gods. But burn me there
With all the armor that I wore, and pile,
Close to the hoary deep, a mound for me.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XI.

Ulysses promised that he would do these things. Then in a little while he saw the shade of his mother, An-ti-cle'a, whom he had left alive in Ithaca when he went to the Trojan War. He wept with grief on beholding her, but he forbade her to come near the blood until he should first have conversed with Tiresias.

At length the prophet appeared, bearing in his hand a golden scepter. After having tasted the blood of the sacrifice he spoke to the Ithacan king and said:

“O illustrious Ulysses, thou seekest an easy return to thy native land. But I fear thou mayest find it hard, for the anger of Neptune is against thee, because thou hast blinded his dear son. Nevertheless thou mayest escape evils, if thou and thy companions do no hurt to the cattle of the Sun

in the island of Tri-na'cri-a. But if thou harm these, destruction will surely come upon thy ship and thy companions. And if thou thyself dost reach thy home, it will be after much suffering and there shall be troubles in thy house. Thou shalt find evil men wasting thy wealth and seeking to have thy wife and thy kingdom. But these thou shalt slay in thy palace, and thou shalt die in peace in thy old age."

Having spoken thus, the prophet Tiresias passed away among the shades. Then the mother of Ulysses came and drank of the blood, and she immediately recognized her son and spoke to him. She asked him how it was that though still alive, he had come to the regions of the dead.

"How didst thou come, my child, a living man,
 Into this place of darkness? Difficult
 It is for those who breathe the breath of life
 To visit these abodes, through which are rolled
 Great rivers, fearful floods, — the first of these
 Oceanus, whose waters none can cross
 On foot, or save on board a trusty bark."

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XI.

Ulysses told her how and why he had come to the land of spirits, and then he eagerly inquired about his home.

"Tell me of my son," said he, "and of my father.

Do they think I shall return no more? And tell me of Penelope. Does she still remain with Telemachus, or has some one of the Grecians taken her for wife?"

In answer to these questions Anticlea told Ulysses that all was well in Ithaca except that they were sorrowing because of his long absence, and now they were beginning to fear he was dead.

"Penelope," said she, "remains faithful in thy palace, and her days and nights are spent in tears mourning for thee. Telemachus manages thy estates and lives as befits a young prince. But thy father mourns for thee, dwelling in the country and never coming to the town. He sleeps where the laborers sleep and wears the laborer's garb. Sorrow has oppressed his old age, even as it did mine, for it was grief for thee, O my son, that deprived me of life."

When his mother ceased speaking, Ulysses longed to clasp her to his breast, and three times he tried to embrace her, but her form passed through his arms like a shadow. Then in great sorrow he cried out:

"Why may I not take thee in my arms, beloved mother, that we may, even for a moment, relieve our grief and soothe our misery?"

"My son," said she, "it is the lot of mortals when

they are dead, for then they no longer have bones or flesh."

"No more the sinews bind
The bones and flesh, when once from the white bones
The life departs. Then like a dream the soul
Flies off, and flits about from place to place."

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XI.

Anticlea now disappeared from the sight of her son, leaving him in sorrow thinking of his aged father and his beloved wife.



XII. DREAD SIGHTS IN PLUTO'S REALM.

As soon as his mother had passed from his view, Ulysses saw crowds of shades gathering round him. He spoke to some of them when they had drunk of the dark blood, conversing with each in turn. He saw the shades of many of his brother chiefs who had fought with him at Troy, and had either perished at sea after sailing for Greece, or had been slain by treacherous foes after reaching home.

He saw the illustrious Agamemnon, who told him the story of how he had been murdered in his own palace by Ægisthus, whom his false wife Clytemnestra had married while he was at the great siege. He saw the mighty Ajax, and the famous Achilles, and Pa-tro'clus, the dear friend and companion of Achilles, whom Hector slew in combat before the walls of Troy. The shade of Achilles seemed sadder than the others, and Ulysses tried to comfort him by speaking of his renown on earth, where he was already honored almost as a god, and of his great power even among the dead.

“Alive we hailed thee with our guardian gods,
And dead thou rulest a king in these abodes.”

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book XI.

But Achilles answered him in sorrowful voice,
saying that he would prefer the lot of the poorest
laborer among mortal men to being king over all
the regions of the dead.

“Noble Ulysses, speak not thus of death,
As if thou couldst console me. I would be
A laborer on earth, and serve for hire
Some man of mean estate, who makes scant cheer,
Rather than reign o’er all who have gone down
To death.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XI.

Achilles then inquired about his son Ne-op-to-l’e-mus, asking whether he had fought among the heroes in the war, and Ulysses told him of the youth’s many deeds of valor. This Neoptolemus went to Troy after his father had been killed, and he was one of the Greeks who concealed themselves in the famous wooden horse, and took part in the destruction of the city. Ulysses described to Achilles the bravery of Neoptolemus in this great enterprise, and told how, when the war was over, he embarked for home without having received a wound, and laden with rich spoil taken from the enemy.

The shade of Achilles now passed away, and after conversing with other heroes, Ulysses saw some of those who were suffering severe punishment for evil deeds they had committed while on earth. There sat Mi'nos, one of the stern judges of Pluto's realm, with a golden scepter in his hand, passing sentence on the spirits as they came before him.

Near by Ulysses saw Tan'ta-lus standing in a lake up to his chin, and though his mouth was parched with thirst, he could not drink, for when he moved his lips toward the water it sank out of sight, and he saw nothing but the black earth beneath. There were also branches of fruit trees laden with all kinds of delicious fruits, — pears and pomegranates and apples and figs, — but whenever he stretched forth his hand to pluck them, a sudden blast of wind whirled them far into the dark clouds.

Tantalus was thus punished for killing his own son. He was guilty of the impiety, too, of stealing ambrosia and nectar from the table of the immortal gods when he was admitted to one of the heavenly banquets on Mount Olympus.

Ulysses also saw the robber Sis'y-phus pushing a huge stone with both hands up a steep hill; but when near the top some secret force sent it flying to the bottom. Then the unhappy man,

covered with sweat, and in a cloud raised by the whirling rock, had to roll it up again only to see it once more driven down to the valley below.

“With many a weary step, and many a groan,
Up the high hill he heaves a huge round stone :
The huge round stone, resulting with a bound,
Thunders impetuous down, and smokes along the ground.
Again the restless orb his toil renews,
Dust mounts in clouds, and sweat descends in dews.”

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book XI.

Then Ulysses saw the specter of the mighty Her'cu-les, but the hero himself dwelt with the immortal gods on high Olympus. The specter wore a belt on which were forms wondrous and fearful to behold — bears and lions and wild boars — and pictures of battles in which men were fiercely slain. When the specter disappeared, myriads of the dead flocked around Ulysses with a mighty and terrific noise, and he grew pale with fear lest he should behold the Gor'gon. This was a female monster who, instead of hair, had writhing and hissing serpents coiled round her head. So frightful was her aspect that any one who looked at her was instantly turned into stone.

“No more my heart the dismal din sustains,
And my cold blood hangs shivering in my veins ;

Lest Gorgon, rising from the infernal lakes,
 With horrors armed, and curls of hissing snakes,
 Should fix me stiffened at the monstrous sight,
 A stony image, in eternal night !”

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book XI.

To avoid so terrible a fate, Ulysses hastened to his ship and embarked with his companions, after which they departed from the shore of the Land of Shades.

“Straight from the direful coast to purer air
 I speed my flight, and to my mates repair.
 My mates ascend the ship ; they strike their oars ;
 The mountains lessen, and retreat the shores ;
 Swift o’er the waves we fly ; the freshening gales
 Sing through the shrouds, and stretch the swelling sails.”

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book XI.



XIII. CIRCE'S PROPHECY AND WARNING.

As the wind was favorable it did not take the Ithacans long to make the voyage through Oceanus and back to the island of Circe. They landed in the same haven as before, and the first thing they did was to honor the remains of their dead comrade, Elpenor, with the customary funeral rites. They burned the body on a funeral pyre built of the trunks of trees, and placed the ashes in a tomb erected on the shore.

Then Circe entertained them hospitably, and they feasted on rich viands and good wine. And at night when his companions had retired to rest, the goddess requested Ulysses to tell her all about his journey to the kingdom of Pluto, what he had seen and heard in the abodes of the dead. He told her everything, and when he had finished his story, Circe talked to him of dangers that he had yet to meet before reaching his native land, and instructed him how to avoid them.

“First,” said she, “thou wilt come to the Land of the Si’rens, whose sweet singing is death to those who listen. Whoever hears their enchanting

voice nevermore returns to his home or sees his wife or children. The Sirens sit in a meadow and charm people by their song, while around them are the bones of dead men. To escape them thou must stop the ears of thy companions with wax, so that they may not hear. But if thou thyself wouldst hear the ravishing music, thy men must bind thee hands and feet to the mast of thy ship, and thou must command them to bind thee yet more fast, in case thou shouldst entreat them to set thee free.

“Other dangers lie in thy way after passing the Sirens. There is a narrow strait having on one side a cliff with a sharp point reaching to the clouds. So steep and so slippery is it that no mortal man could ascend it, even though he had twenty hands and twenty feet. On the side toward the strait is a cavern as high above the water as an arrow could be shot from a ship.

“There dwells the monster Scylla, making the air resound with her fearful cries. Of hideous form is she, with twelve unshapely feet, six long necks and as many heads, and in each three rows of teeth. Half her body rests in the dark cave, but her heads she ever holds forth to seize her prey—dolphins, or sea dogs, or great whales which Am-phi-tri'te, the wife of Neptune, breeds. Never have any sailors passed by the dread monster un-

harméd, for with each of her mouths she snatches a living man and bears him away.

“On the other side of the strait is a lower rock out of which a fig tree grows. Underneath is the abode of Cha-ryb’dís who three times each day sucks in the dark water and three times sends it forth with deafening noise. Beware of being near when she sucks it in, for then not even Neptune could save thee from destruction. Sooner take thy course by the dread Scylla, since it is better for thee to lose six of thy companions than that all should perish.”

“But can I not attack this monster Scylla with my sword,” said Ulysses, “and so escape Charybdis and defend my companions?”

“O rash man,” replied the goddess, “vain would it be to take arms against her, since she is immortal and cannot die. It is best to flee, for if thou shouldst wait to fight, more of thy men would surely perish. In flight is thy only safety.

“When thou shalt have passed the monster’s cave, thou wilt come to the island of Trinacria where the sheep and oxen of the Sun feed, tended by two fair-haired nymphs, the goddesses Lampe-ti’a and Pha-ë-thu’sa. There are seven herds of fat oxen with fifty in each, and as many beautiful sheep. If thou leave these unharmed, thou and

thy companions may reach Ithaca in safety. But if through thee or thy people the flock or herds of the Sun suffer hurt, then destruction will come upon thy ship and thy companions, and thou thyself wilt return to thy home in sorrow only after long years of wandering."

Thus Circe instructed and counseled Ulysses. Next morning he and his companions embarked, and the goddess sent them a favorable wind to waft them onwards.



XIV. THE SIRENS.

THEY soon came within view of the island of the Sirens, three fair maidens or nymphs of the sea, who dwelt there to decoy unwary voyagers. Ulysses had already told his companions of the warning of Circe. He now took a large cake of wax, and after softening and kneading it in the heat of the sun, he pressed portions of it into the ears of all his men, so that they could not hear the least sound. Then his comrades bound him to the mast of the ship, tying his hands and feet firmly with strong cords.

Thus the Ithacans were secure against the bewitching songs of the nymphs, and they plied their oars vigorously. As they approached the island, melodious sounds reached the ears of Ulysses. The Sirens knew of his coming, and when they saw his galley sailing by their meadows near the shore they began to sing an alluring song:

“Oh, stay, O pride of Greece ! Ulysses, stay.
Oh, cease thy course, and listen to our lay !

Blest is the man ordain'd our voice to hear,
 The song instructs the soul, and charms the ear.
 Approach ! thy soul shall into raptures rise ;
 Approach ! and learn new wisdom from the wise.
 We know whate'er the kings of mighty name
 Achieved at Ilion in the field of fame ;
 Whate'er beneath the sun's bright journey lies,
 Oh, stay, and learn new wisdom from the wise !”

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book XII.

The sweet music and the artful words filled the heart of Ulysses with a longing desire to stay and hear more, so he signed and nodded to his companions to loose the cords that bound him. But instead of yielding to his entreaties, they plied their oars more vigorously, and Eurylochus and Peri-me'des took stronger cords and tied him still more firmly to the mast. When they had sailed past the island and were no longer within hearing distance of the singers, the men took the wax from their ears and then set free their chief.

“Then, scudding swiftly from the dangerous ground,
 The deafened ear unlocked, the chains unbound.”

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book XII.

The Sirens were so enraged and disappointed that they threw themselves into the sea and perished. An oracle had told them that they should be destroyed as soon as any one, after hearing their

song, should resist the allurements and depart in safety. Ulysses was the first who escaped except the famous musician Orpheus and his companions. Others who had come near the island had gone ashore and sat listening, entranced, until they died from want of food. Orpheus saved himself and his party by drowning the voice of the Sirens with the music of his lyre, which he had received from his father Apollo, the god of music and song.



XV. SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS.

SCARCELY had they passed the isle of the Sirens when they heard a deafening roar of waters and saw before them waves mountain high and a dark mist thrown up by the raging surf. The men were stricken with sudden fear, and so terrified were the rowers that the oars dropped from their hands. Ulysses quickly went among them speaking words of encouragement.

“We have met greater dangers than this, my friends,” said he, “and have overcome them. We were prisoners in the Cyclops’ cave and through my good counsel we escaped. Be now advised by me. Go to your oars and ply with all your strength. And thou, helmsman, take care to keep outside the mist and boiling surf, lest being sucked into the hole we all should perish.”

The crafty chief said nothing to them about Scylla, for he thought that if they knew of the monster being there, they would cease to row and retreat into the hold of the ship through fear, as soon as they came near the cliff. But Ulysses himself prepared to fight, forgetful, for the moment, of

Circe's warning. He put on his shining armor, and took his long spears and stood upon the prow to await the appearance of the enemy.

The galley had now sailed into the strait between the two rocks, with Scylla on one side and on the other Charybdis swallowing the huge waves into her horrid gulf and casting them forth again with a terrific roaring noise.

“Dire Scylla there a scene of horror forms.
And here Charybdis fills the deep with storms.
When the tide rushes from her rumbling caves,
The rough rock roars, tumultuous boil the waves ;
They toss, they foam, a wild confusion raise,
Like waters bubbling o'er the fiery blaze.”

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book XII.

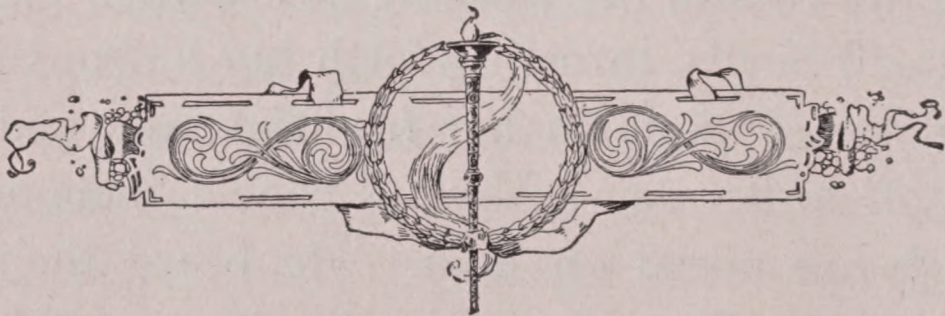
The companions of Ulysses grew pale with fear. From the deck of their galley they could see into the vast whirlpool to the blue sand at the bottom. Hastily they steered toward the tall cliff to avoid being drawn into the yawning abyss, when suddenly the dread Scylla, thrusting forth her hideous heads, seized six of them in her frightful jaws and bore them off to her den. Ulysses beheld them as they were being raised on high. He heard their agonized cries calling upon him by name, and he saw them stretch their hands toward him when the monster was devouring them at the mouth of her

cavern. Nothing he had seen during all his adventures was so lamentable as this.

“Scylla devoured them at her cavern’s mouth,
Stretching their hands to me with piercing cries
Of anguish. ’Twas in truth the saddest sight,
Whatever I have suffered and where’er
Have roamed the waters, that mine eyes have seen.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XII.

Though Ulysses had put on his armor and had weapons in his hand, he was prudent enough not to attempt battle with an enemy that could not be vanquished by mortal strength or valor. He thought it better to follow the wise counsel of Circe, so he urged his companions to increased speed, and they soon passed out of the narrow strait of Scylla and Charybdis.



XVI. THE OXEN OF THE SUN.

AFTER leaving Scylla and Charybdis, Ulysses and his remaining companions sailed on until they came to a beautiful island. It was the island of Trinacria, and as they approached it, they heard the bleating of sheep and the lowing of oxen.

These were the cattle of the Sun, and Ulysses, remembering the warning of the prophet Tiresias and of Circe, said to his men that it would be better to pass on and not land on the island, lest some evil should happen to them. But they would not give heed to his wise counsel. They were fatigued with toil and want of sleep, and longed to rest and refresh themselves on dry land. And so they disregarded the wish of their chief, and went ashore. But Ulysses made them promise that they would not harm the oxen or the sheep they should find on the island.

“Now all of you
Bind yourselves to me firmly, by an oath,
That if ye haply here shall meet a herd
Of beeves or flock of sheep, ye will not dare

To slay a single ox or sheep, but feed
Contented on the stores that Circe gave."

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XII.

As soon as they landed they prepared their evening meal, for it was near sunset, and when they had eaten and drunk, they lay down to sleep. In the morning there was a great storm which prevented them from resuming their voyage, so they drew their galley into a cave or grotto at the head of the small haven or creek where they had landed. In this grotto they saw the seats of the sea nymphs and the places where they danced.

For a whole month the winds continued so unfavorable that they could not leave the island. As long as their provisions lasted they did not touch the oxen. Even when their supply of bread was consumed they eat fish and birds, or anything that came to their hands. But soon they grew weak from want of more and better food. One day Ulysses went away from his companions to another part of the island to pray to the gods to help him and grant them some means of returning to their native land. While thus engaged he fell into a soft sleep. Meantime, Eurylochus talked with his companions assembled at the ship.

"My comrades," said he, "death in any form is dreadful to men, but death by hunger is the most

dreadful of all. Let us then kill and eat some of these oxen that we see around us and when we come to Ithaca we will make amends. We will build a grand temple to the Sun and offer up gifts and sacrifices to the gods to atone for the fault we commit here to save our lives. But if it be the will of the gods to destroy our ship in the sea, it is better to perish in the deep than to die a lingering death by famine."

All the men approved of the proposal of Eurylochus. Then they selected the best of one of the herds of oxen that were grazing near by, and immediately slaughtered them, and prepared a fire to roast some of the flesh. While they were thus engaged, Ulysses, after awaking from his sleep, returned to the shore. When he saw what had been done he was filled with grief and alarm.

Meanwhile, Lampetia, one of the guardian goddesses who tended the flocks, hastened up to heaven to tell the Sun that his beautiful oxen had been slain by the companions of Ulysses. Great was the anger of the god when he heard of the impious deed, and forthwith he demanded of the other deities of Olympus that the offenders should be punished.

"O father Jupiter," said he, "and ye other immortal gods, avenge this wrong upon the companions of Ulysses. They have slain the oxen in which

I took delight each day as I ascended into the starry heavens and sank from the heavens to earth. If they are not punished as they deserve, I shall go down into the regions of Pluto, there to shine among the dead, and no more shall I give light to mortal men on earth,"

"O Sun," replied Jupiter, "shine forever in the bright heavens and with thy glorious beams make the earth fruitful and give joy to men. As for these Greeks, they shall be quickly punished. I will cleave their galley with my thunderbolts and sink them in the depths of the sea."

While the doom of his companions was being thus pronounced, Ulysses was severely reproving them for their mad folly. But the evil that was done could not be remedied. The oxen were dead and some of the meat was roasting on spits. Just at this moment a wonderful thing happened. The skins of the dead beasts crawled along the ground and the pieces of flesh lowed like living oxen.

"And now with prodigies the gods
Amazed my companions, — the skins moved and crawled,
The flesh both raw and roasted on the spits
Lowd with the voice of oxen."

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XII.

But though they were amazed at the prodigy, the men feasted on the flesh, and they remained

six days longer killing the best of the oxen and eating the meat.

On the seventh day the wind was favorable, and they embarked and set sail. But scarcely were they out of sight of land when a dark cloud appeared above their heads, and immediately afterward a furious storm arose. In a few moments, waves mountain high were raging around the galley. The wind tore up the deck, shattered the sails and rigging and broke the mast, which fell backward on the pilot, crushing him to death.

Then Jupiter sent down his thunderbolts which struck the ship with a mighty crash, filled it with sulphurous vapor, and hurled the men into the foaming sea. Ulysses held on until the vessel fell asunder. The sides parted from the bottom, and the keel drifted before the waves. The mast was broken off at the base, but there was a thong of bullock's hide around it. With this thong Ulysses bound the mast and keel together, and sat firmly upon them, and in this posture he was driven along the surface of the waves by a violent west wind.

Soon the west wind ceased and a south wind came on, which Ulysses feared would carry him back to the terrible Charybdis.

And so it happened. After being borne onward during the whole night he found himself in

the morning at the entrance to the narrow strait, with Scylla on one side and Charybdis on the other.

It was just at the moment when Charybdis was sucking in the waters. The raft of Ulysses was swept into the gulf, and he himself would have been swallowed up in the awful abyss had he not jumped forward and grasped a branch of the overhanging fig tree, to which he clung like a bat. He could find no place to rest his feet, nor could he climb into the tree, for the boughs were so far apart that he could not reach from one to another. So with all his strength he held on to the stout bough until Charybdis again sent forth the waters and the mast and keel reappeared below. Then he dropped himself down upon his raft and sitting on it as before, he rowed away with both his hands and with all his might.



XVII. IN CALYPSO'S ISLAND.

FOR nine days Ulysses floated on the sea, but on the tenth he came to the island of O-gyg'i-a. Here in a beautiful grotto dwelt the fair nymph or goddess Ca-lyp'so, daughter of At'las, the mighty hero who bore the heavens on his shoulders.

Calypso received the Ithacan chief kindly and entertained him hospitably. She promised to make him immortal if he would stay with her forever and consent to be her husband. Ulysses, however, longed for his home and family and would gladly have ventured to sea again, but he had no ships or men to help him on a voyage.

To his dear native land
Depart he cannot : ship arrayed with oars
And seamen has he none, to bear him o'er
The breast of the broad ocean.

/ BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book V.

For seven long years he was detained in Calypso's isle, and often he sat on the beach looking out over the sea and mourning for his dear wife and son.

At length it appeared fitting to the gods that he

should be permitted to return home. They were all favorable to him except Neptune, who hated him for what he had done to his son Polyphemus. But at this time Neptune was away in Æ-thi-o'pi-a at a banquet, and in his absence there was an assembly of the gods on Olympus. There Minerva appealed to Jupiter in behalf of Ulysses.

“O King of Kings,” said she, “my heart is grieved for the unhappy Ulysses kept away from those he loves. The daughter of Atlas detains him with soft words in her forest island, seeking to make him forget Ithaca. Let us send our messenger Mercury down to Ogygia to make known to the fair-haired nymph Calypso our will that Ulysses return to his home. I myself will repair to Ithaca to counsel his son, and I will tell him to go to Sparta and to Pylos to inquire for his father. So he shall become known and have great fame among the men of Hellas.”

Jupiter consented to the proposal of Minerva and he sent Mercury down to Calypso with a message that Ulysses must immediately depart from Ogygia.



XVIII. MINERVA VISITS TELEMACHUS.

MEANWHILE Minerva prepared to set out on her visit to Ithaca. Under her feet she fastened her golden sandals.

The fair, ambrosial golden sandals worn
To bear her over ocean like the wind,
And o'er the boundless land.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book I.

When she had put on her sandals she took in her hand her mighty brass-tipped spear, with which, when angry, she could destroy whole armies of heroes. Then she sped down to Ithaca like a flash of lightning and stood at the door of the palace of Ulysses. But she disguised herself by taking the form of Men'tor, a chief of a neighboring people called Ta'phi-ans, and a friend of Ulysses in the Trojan War.

As she stood at the door the goddess saw a number of men eating and drinking in the hall, while servants were waiting upon them, bringing them meat and pouring out wine for them to drink. These were the suitors — young princes of the surrounding isles who sought to make Penelope



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Minerva.

believe that Ulysses was dead and to persuade her to take one of them for her husband.

Telemachus was sitting among them thinking of his father and sorrowing for his absence. He was the first to notice the stranger at the door, and he went forward and courteously welcomed him. Then he led him to a seat apart from the others and commanded the servants to bring food and wine. At the same time the harper Phe'mi-us played music for the suitors, and when the disguised Mentor had finished his meal, Telemachus leaned forward and spoke to him.

"Good stranger," said he, "these revelers eat and drink and enjoy music not at their own cost. They are consuming the substance of another man who is tossed about on the ocean, or perhaps dead. If he should return and see them here, they would need swift feet to bear them away from his wrath. But tell me, I pray, who art thou and whence dost thou come? Hast thou at any time been my father's guest? For often strangers came to our house, when he was its master."

"I am Mentor, king of the Taphians," replied the stranger, "I am on my way to Cy'prus to exchange my steel for brass. My ship is in a haven at the back of the town. I am a friend of thy family, as Laertes may tell thee if thou wilt ask him. I came

to see thy father for I heard he had returned. Some god hinders him on his journey. But he will yet come home. This I know, though I am not a seer. But tell me, art thou not the son of Ulysses, for indeed thou dost greatly resemble him."

"O stranger," replied Telemachus, "I am indeed the son of Ulysses. Would that a happier lot had been his and mine."

"May the gods make thy race glorious," said Mentor. "But who are these and what feast is this? Is it a banquet given to invited guests? Whoe'er they be their revels are unseemly."

"These," answered Telemachus, "are men of note in Ithaca and chiefs who rule in neighboring isles. They woo my mother and waste my father's means, for they are here every day eating and drinking of our substance. My mother fears to offend them by blunt refusal and she cannot bear to think of marriage."

When Mentor heard these things he advised Telemachus to call the chief men of Ithaca together next day, and in their presence command the suitors to depart to their homes. "Then," said he, "get ready a ship and go and inquire about thy father. First go to Pylos to the venerable Nestor. Next go to Sparta. Perhaps Menelaus may have tidings of him, for he is the latest who has returned

from the war. If thou shouldst learn that thy father lives, thou mayest have patience for yet a year. But if thou shouldst find that he is dead, return home and perform the funeral rites. Then thy mother may wed and thou canst take steps to punish the suitors. Thou art no longer a boy. Be brave, that men hereafter may honor thy name. And now I must leave thee, for my companions may be anxiously awaiting me."

Telemachus thanked him for his good counsel and pressed him to stay until some rich gift could be prepared for him, such as in ancient times it was customary for friendly hosts to bestow upon their guests. But the stranger begged Telemachus not to detain him. He promised to receive his gift at another time and to present one in return. Then he arose and ascended into the air like a bird, suddenly disappearing from view. Telemachus now knew that it was the goddess Minerva who had been his visitor, and his heart was filled with strength and courage.



XIX. PENELOPE'S WEB.

NEXT day heralds were sent out to call the chiefs together, as Mentor had advised. They quickly came, and when they were all assembled in the forum or open market place, where meetings of the people were usually held, Telemachus took his seat as president of the council. The first speaker was the venerable chief Æ-gyp'tius, a hero bent with age, whose son, An'ti-phus, was one of the unhappy victims of the monster Polyphemus.

His son, the warlike Antiphus,
Went with the great Ulysses in his fleet
To courser-breeding Troy, and afterwards
The cruel Cyclops, in the vaulted cave,
Slew him for his last meal.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book II.

The father of the unfortunate hero rose in the council of the chiefs to inquire what was the object of the assemblage. "Men of Ithaca," said he, "we have had no council since the great Ulysses departed from our isle. Why are we now summoned? Is there an enemy coming to attack us, or if not, what

other matter concerning the general welfare are we called to discuss?"

Then Telemachus arose to speak, holding in his hand his father's golden scepter. "I have not called you," said he, "to hear of an approaching enemy or to discuss anything concerning the public good. But I would talk to you about my own troubles. My father I fear I have lost. He was your king, and ruled over you with love and mildness. But while he is away evil comes upon his family. Every day those suitors, the sons of men of rank in our isle, come to try to persuade my mother to marry. And they feast upon our substance, killing and eating our oxen and sheep and drinking our wine; for there is no one to prevent them or to protect us. Is it not a shame, O my friends, that these things are done in the house of Ulysses? Better were it that we should die than live suffering these wrongs for which in vain we seek redress."

After he had thus spoken Telemachus, filled with grief and anger, dashed his scepter to the ground and burst into a flood of tears. The people were moved to pity, and for a few moments there was deep silence. Then one of the suitors, An-tin'o-us by name, the most insolent of them all, arose and said:

"O presumptuous youth, dost thou dare to blame

us when it is thy mother who is in fault? Skilled in craft as she is, she has now for three years been deceiving us with false hopes. A cunning device she planned, to weave a shroud for Laertes, and when she began the work of her loom she spoke to us, saying: 'Young men, do not ask me to marry until I have finished this web for a funeral vesture for the chief Laertes. Great dishonor it would be, and the Grecian dames would think it ill of me if I should leave him without a shroud at death.' So she spoke, and she began to weave her web; but by night she unraveled what she wove by day."

"So went she on,
Weaving that ample web, and every night
Unraveled it by torchlight. Three full years
She practiced thus, and by the fraud deceived
The Grecian youths; but when the hours had brought
The fourth year round, a woman who knew all
Revealed the mystery, and we ourselves
Saw her unraveling the ample web."

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book II.

"Thus," continued Antinous, "has thy mother deceived us. Now hear our answer to thee. Send thy mother to the home of her father, and let her marry any one of the Grecian youths she may choose. But if thou wilt not, or if she will not choose for husband one of the suitors, we will not depart hence nor cease consuming thy goods."

But Telemachus would not consent to this proposal. "Think you," said he, "that I could do this wrong to the mother that nursed me? If I should send her away from my father's house against her will, the deed would draw upon my head the anger of the gods. Never shall I do aught so evil. And now I command you to cease consuming what is mine and to depart to your own homes. If you refuse to obey, I shall call on the immortal gods to punish you."

As Telemachus ceased speaking, Jupiter sent two eagles, which were seen flying together until they came right over the heads of the assembled chiefs. There they paused, and after looking down for a moment on the people below, they tore each other with their talons and then darted away.

The Thunderer, Jove,
Sent flying from a lofty mountain-top
Two eagles. First they floated on the wind
Close to each other and with wings outspread ;
But as they came to where the murmuring crowd
Was gathered just beneath their flight, they turned
And clapped their heavy pinions, looking down
With deadly omen on the heads below,
And with their talons tore each other's cheeks
And necks, and then they darted to the right
Away through Ithaca among its roofs.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book II.

Great was the astonishment of the assembly on beholding this prodigy, and all wondered what it meant. But the aged hero Ha-li-ther'ses, who was also a soothsayer, arose and said:

“O men of Ithaca, hear me, and particularly you suitors. Great danger hangs over your heads. Ulysses is not far from his home. When he comes it will fare ill with you, if you do not cease from injuring his family. Pay heed to my words. I do not speak without knowledge of the future. Long ago when the Greeks were embarking for Troy, I foretold that our chief would not return for twenty years, nor until all his comrades were lost. These things are now coming to pass.”

But the suitors would not listen to the warnings of the soothsayer. Then Telemachus begged them to give him a ship that he might go to Pylos and Sparta to seek tidings of his father. But they only laughed at his request, and soon afterwards the assembly broke up.



XX. TELEMACHUS GOES ON A VOYAGE.

AFTER the council the suitors went to the palace and Telemachus walked alone to the seashore. There he washed his hands in the foaming surf and prayed aloud to Minerva.

“Hear me,” said he, “O goddess, who hast commanded me to cross the sea to inquire about my dear father. I cannot go without a ship, and the suitors will not help me.”

Then Minerva immediately appeared and stood by his side, again taking the form of Mentor, and she encouraged him, saying :

“Telemachus, if thy father’s spirit be in thee, thy journey will not be in vain. Regard not the suitors. Thou shalt have a ship, and I myself will accompany thee to be thy guide and protector. Hasten now and get ready provisions for thy voyage, while I go among the people and find good men who will gladly serve thee. Ships there are plenty in Ithaca, and I will choose the best and have it well prepared.”

Joyfully Telemachus returned to the palace to make preparations for his departure. The suitors

were sitting around well-spread tables banqueting on rich viands, and as they noticed the young prince they spoke of him in slighting words.

"Doubtless," said one, "he expects to bring men from Pylos and Sparta to destroy us all."

"Perhaps," said another, "he may perish far away from home like his father and then we shall have his wealth to divide among us, and one of us shall be king in Ithaca."

But Telemachus paid no heed to the talk of the suitors. He hastened to his own apartments, and there he found the faithful housekeeper, Eu-ry-cle'a, who was his old nurse and to him the most affectionate of all the domestics of the family.

She loved
Her young lord more than all the other maids,
And she had nursed him in his tender years.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book I.

Telemachus told her that he was going away to search for news of his father, and he requested her to get ready provisions for his journey. "Fill twelve jars with good wine," said he, "and put twenty measures of meal in strong bags. I will come for them in the evening after my mother has retired to rest, for she must not know that I am going."

The kind-hearted woman burst into tears and wept aloud. "O my child," cried she, "what is this

thou art about to do? Think of what has happened to thy father. And these wicked men will plot against thy life when thou art gone, and divide thy wealth among themselves. Do thou remain here, among thy people, for it is not safe for one so young to wander over the wild sea."

Telemachus comforted the good woman by telling her that his journey was ordered by a god. Then he made her promise that she would not let his mother know of his departure until eleven or twelve days after he had gone, lest she should wear herself away with grief.

Meanwhile Minerva, taking the form and appearance of Telemachus, went through the city, and picking out good men for a crew she ordered them to be at the ship at nightfall. The ship she borrowed from a generous man, No-e'mon, who willingly gave it for the son of the noble Ulysses.

By evening the vessel and crew were ready. Minerva now repaired to the palace where the suitors were feasting, and she shed over them a sense of drowsiness which made them all hasten to their chambers and go to sleep. Then she assumed the form and voice of Mentor, and going to Telemachus told him that it was time to depart. Both immediately went together to the beach where they found the men awaiting them. Telemachus took a

few of them with him to the palace to fetch the wine and meal, which were quickly carried down and stored in the ship. Then all the men embarked.

Telemachus went up
The vessel's side, but Pallas first embarked,
And at the stern sat down, while next to her
Telemachus was seated. Then the crew
Cast loose the fastenings and went all on board,
And took their places on the rowers' seats,
While blue-eyed Pallas sent a favoring breeze,
A fresh wind from the west, that murmuring swept
The dark-blue main.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book II.

And so with a favoring wind and a good guide and counselor, Telemachus sailed away to seek for intelligence of his beloved father.



XXI. TELEMACHUS VISITS KING NESTOR.

TELEMACHUS sailed all night, and the next morning came to the city of Pylos on the seacoast. There the people were assembled in great numbers, offering sacrifices of black oxen to Neptune.

On nine seats they sat,
Five hundred on each seat ; nine steers were slain
For each five hundred there.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book III.

The Ithacans moored their ship at the shore and landed, and Mentor and Telemachus went up to where the people sat. Among them were the venerable King Nestor and his sons, and men were roasting meat on spits and preparing other things for a feast. As soon as the strangers were noticed, many came to welcome them. Pi-sis'tra-tus, the king's son, greeted them kindly and led them to seats near his father. Then he placed meat before them, and wine in golden cups, and bade them offer libation and prayer to Neptune, in whose honor the feast was made.

Mentor took the cup, and pouring wine on the

ground in honor of Neptune, prayed to the god to give glory to Nestor and all his people, and to grant to himself and his friends good fortune in the business on which they had come, and a safe return to their country. Telemachus also made libation to the god and prayed in like manner. Then they all feasted on the good things set before them, and when the banquet was over, Nestor addressed the strangers, inquiring who they were and what was the object of their voyage.

Telemachus answered that he had come from Ithaca to make inquiries about his father Ulysses; and he begged Nestor to tell him if he knew aught of him — whether he was dead, or what fate had befallen him since they had taken and sacked the great city of Ilium.

The old man replied, telling much of what had happened to many of the heroes after they had sailed from Troy, and praising Ulysses as the greatest of them all.

“Far o’er the rest thy mighty father shined,
In wit, in prudence, and in force of mind.
Art thou the son of that illustrious sire?
With joy I grasp thee, and with love admire.”

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book III.

Nestor, however, had no news to tell of Ulysses since he had left Troy. He knew that Agamemnon

had been cruelly slain upon reaching his own palace, and that Menelaus had recently returned to Sparta with his wife Helen; but of the fate of the brave warrior of Ithaca, he had learned nothing. He had indeed heard of the suitors, and of their insults to Penelope, and of their other evil doings; and he encouraged Telemachus to believe that his father would one day return and take fitting vengeance on those insolent men.

The king and his guests continued their conversation until the shades of evening came on, and then Nestor advised Telemachus and his companions to go to Sparta and make inquiries of Menelaus.

That hero had himself had many adventures on his voyage home, and he might possibly have seen or heard of Ulysses. They could journey to Sparta in their ship, or if they preferred to travel by land, he would furnish them with a carriage and horses and send his son with them as a guide.

Grateful for the hospitality and kindness of the king, Telemachus and Mentor now rose to return to their ship, but Nestor invited them to come to his palace and remain as his guests for the night.

"This is well, good friend," said Mentor, "and Telemachus may stay with thee. But I must hasten away to other tasks. To-night I shall be at the ship; to-morrow I depart for distant lands."

So saying, Mentor ascended into the sky like an eagle, and vanished from their sight. All were astonished, but the king knew who it was, and he said to Telemachus:

“Thou must surely be a good youth, since the gods thus accompany thee. This was no other than the daughter of Jove, the glorious Minerva who honored also thy excellent father.”

Early in the morning the king arose. He came down to the lofty gate of the palace, and sat on a polished stone bench in front of the gate, with Telemachus at his side. Then Nestor ordered one of his sons to bring a heifer, the best of the herd, for a sacrifice to Minerva. He ordered another to command the goldsmith La-er'ceus to decorate the heifer's horns with gold, that the offering might be more pleasing to the goddess. He ordered a third to bring the companions of Telemachus from the ship, and he directed that the maids of the palace should prepare a grand banquet.

Immediately all were busily occupied, and when the golden-horned heifer was slain, portions of it were burned and the king poured wine upon them. He was surrounded by his family—his wife, Queen Eu-ryd'i-ce, and his daughters and sons all taking part in the religious ceremonies.

After the sacrifice they sat down and feasted on

rich viands, and when the meal was over, Nestor ordered his sons to make preparations for the departure of Telemachus. Immediately swift horses were yoked to a chariot, and the housekeeper put in some provisions for the journey — good wine and rich food such as only kings eat. Then Telemachus mounted into his seat and Pisistratus, the king's son, climbed in after him and took the reins. Quickly the fleet horses were dashing along the plain on the road to Sparta and soon they had left Pylos far behind.



XXII. IN THE PALACE OF MENELAUS.

THE travelers made no stop until evening when they came to the city of Phe'ræ. Here they remained for the night and were hospitably entertained by King Di'o-cles. Next morning they resumed their journey and by sundown reached Sparta and drove up to the gate of the royal palace of King Menelaus.

On this day it happened that they had a double wedding feast in the palace. The king's daughter, Her-mi'o-ne, had been wedded to Neoptolemus, the son of the great Achilles, and his son Meg-a-pen'-thes had taken for wife the daughter of a neighboring prince. And so there was great festivity in the halls of Menelaus when Telemachus and Pisis-tratus arrived.

They were soon noticed by the servants, one of whom hastened to tell his master that two strangers of noble appearance were at the gate, and to ask whether they should be received or sent to seek entertainment elsewhere.

"Why dost thou talk of turning strangers from our door?" replied Menelaus angrily. "This is

not the hospitality we ourselves have so often received from others. Loose the horses quickly, and give the strangers fitting welcome."

The servants hastened to obey. Telemachus and Pisistratus were immediately conducted into the palace. After they had refreshed themselves by bathing in magnificent baths, and arrayed themselves in beautiful tunics supplied by the attendants, they were led into the banqueting hall. Here the king was waiting to receive them, and he made them sit near himself on golden thrones. Then servants brought water in vessels of gold and silver, and set before the guests a table covered with the choicest meats. The king giving his hand to each of them bade them welcome, and invited them to eat.

When they had finished their meal, Telemachus, bending his head toward his companion, said in a low voice so that his words might not be heard by Menelaus:

"O son of Nestor, how beautiful is everything in this house. Behold the shining brass and the gold and the silver and the ivory and the amber. In truth the palace of Olympian Jove cannot be more splendid than this."

But Menelaus overheard the words and he said to his guests:

"No house of mortal man can equal the palace

of the gods. But even mortals may compare in wealth with me. That which I possess I have wandered much and suffered many hardships to gain. Yet gladly would I sacrifice my riches if thereby I could restore to life my dear comrades who perished before the walls of Troy.. Often sitting here in my palace I mourn for them all, but for none so much as for Ulysses. No other of all the Greeks accomplished so much as he. Where he is, whether alive or dead, we know not. His aged father Laertes, and the virtuous Penelope, and his son Telemachus, whom he left an infant in Ithaca, must be mourning much for him."

When Menelaus ceased speaking he saw tears flowing down the cheeks of one of the strangers. Then it occurred to him that the young man might be that Telemachus whose name he had just mentioned, and he began to think whether it would be best to question him or wait until the youth should himself speak and tell who he was.

At that moment the beautiful Helen entered the room. She was attended by three of her maids. One of them placed a seat of rich workmanship beside the throne of Menelaus for her mistress to sit on. Another brought a silver basket filled with violet threads, and upon it a golden distaff, which the queen herself used in her spinning; for in

ancient times the noblest ladies did not think it beneath them to do useful work.

After taking her seat, Queen Helen inquired about the strangers.

“Knowest thou, Menelaus,” said she, “who these visitors are? I think one of the youths is so very like the noble Ulysses that he must, indeed, be no other than his son, Telemachus, whom his father left at home, a babe, when he went with the heroes of Greece to fight the Trojans for my sake.”

“I am of thy opinion, wife,” replied Menelaus, “he has the face and eyes of Ulysses, and a little while ago he shed tears when I mentioned the noble chief’s name.”

Then Pisistratus for the first time spoke, saying that his companion was indeed Telemachus, the son of Ulysses, and that he himself was son of King Nestor, who had sent him to guide his young friend to Sparta.

Hearing this, King Menelaus again welcomed his guests for the sake of their fathers, and he spoke of his great love for Ulysses. “I thought,” said he, “that I should welcome him here when Olympian Jove had granted us a safe return from Troy. I would have founded a city for him in my own country and built dwellings, and brought him and his people and his goods from Ithaca. We might

then have met often as dear friends and neighbors, and only death would have parted us. But some god, no doubt, has seen that this would be too great a happiness for us, and has prevented the return of Ulysses."

They all wept, thinking of the absent hero, but after a little while Menelaus bade them lay aside their grief, and he ordered the attendants to place more refreshments on the tables. Helen mixed the wine with nepenthe, a powerful drug which made men forget all their sorrows. Whoever tasted of this drug would not shed a tear even though father and mother should be slain before their eyes.

Helen, Jove-born dame,
Had other thoughts, and with the wine they drank
Mingled a drug, an antidote to grief
And anger, bringing quick forgetfulness
Of all life's evils. Whoso drinks, when once
It is infused and in the cup, that day
Shall never wet his cheeks with tears, although
His father and his mother lie in death,
Nor though his brother or beloved son
Fall butchered by the sword before his eyes.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IV.

When they had drunk of this wine and had for a time forgotten all their griefs, Helen told them the story, related in an earlier chapter, of how Ulysses

disguised as a slave had entered the city of Troy to steal the famous Palladium.

Menelaus then told about the wooden horse. The trick would have been discovered, he said, had it not been for the wisdom of Ulysses. For, while the horse was standing before the walls in the midst of the wondering Trojans, Helen came out from the city and walked three times round the figure calling upon the Greek heroes by name, and imitating the voices of their wives to tempt them to answer. This she did, prompted by some god who wished to give the victory to the Trojans.

One of the Greeks, An'ti-clus by name, was about to answer aloud, when Ulysses pressed his hands tightly upon his mouth and prevented him from speaking. Thus the "man of many arts" saved his countrymen, for if Anticlus had cried out, the Trojans would have heard the voice and destroyed the wooden horse and killed all who were within.

" All the Achaian chiefs
Kept silence save Anticlus, who alone
Began to speak, when, with his powerful hands,
Ulysses pressed together instantly
The opening lips, and saved us all."

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IV.

In such conversation about the Greek heroes at the Trojan War, King Menelaus and Queen Helen

and their guests spent the evening until the hour came for retiring to rest. Then the heralds, or attendants, conducted Telemachus and his companion to magnificent beds hung with beautiful tapestries.

Helen called her maids
To make up couches in the portico,
And throw fair purple blankets over them,
And tapestry above, and cover all
With shaggy cloaks. Forth from the palace halls
They went with torches, and made ready soon
The couches ; thither heralds led the guests.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IV.



XXIII. THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA.

EARLY in the morning Menelaus and his guests arose, and the king, taking Telemachus apart from the others, sat by his side, and asked the object of his journey to Sparta. Telemachus answered that he had come in search of news of his father, and he begged Menelaus to inform him whether he had seen or heard anything of him. Then he told about the suitors and their insulting treatment of his mother.

Menelaus was exceedingly angry on hearing the story. "Base cowards they are," said he, "thus to insult the wife of an absent man, but they will get the punishment they deserve. A bitter wedding feast shall be theirs when Ulysses returns home. Now about thy inquiries; I shall relate to thee truly all that was told me by Pro'teus, the Old Man of the Sea, and some of it thou wilt be pleased to hear.

"On my voyage home from Troy I and my companions were detained by unfavorable winds on an island near E'gypt — Pha'ros they call it. Our provisions ran short, and we should have perished of

hunger had not I-do'the-a, daughter of Proteus, taken pity on us. I met her as I was taking a walk by the seaside at a distance from my companions, and she said to me:

“‘Thou art foolish, O stranger, or careless, to linger in this isle while thy companions are weary with waiting and long to return home.’

“I answered, ‘O goddess, for such I take thee to be, I linger here unwillingly. Some of the gods hinder my departure. Perhaps thou canst tell me how we may reach our homes.’

“Then she said: ‘I will tell thee, stranger. There is an old man of the sea who has his haunts here. They call him Proteus, and he is my father. If thou canst lay hold on him he will tell thee how thou mayest reach thy home safely, and all else thou desirest to ask. At noon each day he comes out of the depths of the water and lies down to rest at the mouth of a cave with his sea calves lying around him. I will direct thee to the place at break of day, and thou must take with thee three of thy strongest companions.

“‘But I must tell thee of the man’s tricks. First he will count his calves, five by five on his fingers; then he will lie down among them. As soon as he sleeps, seize him and hold him fast. He will use many wiles in trying to escape. He will change

himself into many forms — perhaps into a reptile or into water and fire, but do thou and thy companions hold him firmly until he is again the same as when he first appeared. Then loose thy hold of the old man and he will tell thee what thou mayest desire to know. ’

“After giving me these directions Idothea sprang into the water and disappeared beneath the waves.

“Next morning I and three of my companions went down to the shore. Idothea was already there, and as soon as she saw us she plunged into the sea and brought up four calves’ skins. Then she made beds for us in the sand and bade us lie down, and when we had lain down, she covered us with the skins so that the old man might think we were sea calves. There we waited, without making the least noise.

“At noon the old man came up out of the sea, and when he had counted his calves he lay down to sleep. Then we rushed upon him, and catching him in our hands, held him fast. He strove to escape, and changed himself into various forms, as Idothea had told us. First he took the form of a lion, then of a dragon, then of a leopard, next of flowing water, and then of a tall tree. But we held him fast, and at length the old man exclaimed:

“‘O son of A’treus, what god hath counseled

thee to insnare me, and what wouldst thou have me tell?’

“I answered, saying: ‘Old man, I am detained long in this isle, and I wish to know from thee what god hinders me from my voyage, and how I may return to my native land.’

“Then the old man said: ‘Thou shouldst have made fitting sacrifice to Jupiter and the other gods. There is a river in Egypt, and by its waters thou must offer hecatombs to the immortals. Then they shall give thee safe return to thy home.’

“I replied that I would do as he commanded. ‘But tell me now, old man,’ I said, ‘what has happened to my friends whom I left when I set out from Troy. Have they reached their homes, or perished in the sea?’

“‘Son of Atreus,’ he answered, ‘why ask what it will grieve thee to know? Yet I shall tell thee. Two of thy friends have perished. Ajax was slain by Neptune. His ships were wrecked in a storm, and he himself was cast on a rock. Yet he might have been saved had he not defied the gods. He said that even against the will of the gods he would sail through the mighty waves. Then Neptune struck the rock with his trident and hurled the impious man into the depths of the sea. Thy brother Agamemnon reached home in his ships,

but in his house he was slain at a banquet by the treacherous Ægisthus.'

"I wept with grief on hearing this. 'But there is another,' said I, 'of whose fate I wish to hear.'

"The son of Laertes,' he answered, 'I saw mourning in the grotto of Calypso, who detains him in her island against his will. He cannot return to his native land for he has no ship or companions.'

"Then the old man plunged into the sea. Next day I sailed to Egypt and there offered sacrifices to the gods, who immediately sent favorable winds which wafted my galleys to the shores of my own country."

Thus ended the story of Menelaus. Telemachus was much comforted to hear that his father was still alive, and he thanked King Menelaus for the welcome news and for his kind hospitality. Then they entered the banqueting hall and sat down with the other wedding guests to a grand banquet and the day was spent in feasting and rejoicing.



XXIV. THE DREAM OF PENELOPE.

MEANWHILE the suitors at Ithaca came to hear of the departure of Telemachus, and they took counsel together to consider what to do. Noemon had told them that he had lent the young prince his ship for a voyage to Pylos, and they were afraid that the expedition meant some harm to them. So they met in a courtyard of the palace and Antinous proposed that he himself should go out with a ship and twenty men and lie in wait for Telemachus on his way home, and kill him.

“ May Jupiter

Crush him ere he can work us further harm !

Now give me a swift bark and twenty men

That I may lie in ambush and keep watch

For his return within the straits between

This isle and rugged Samos ; then, I deem,

He will have sought his father to his cost.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book IV.

Sa'mos, also called Ceph-al-le'ni-a, was the name of the larger island, south from Ithaca, by which Telemachus would have to pass on his return, and to the coasts of this island Antinous went in his bark with twenty men, to lie in ambush for the son of Ulysses.

But it happened that the herald, Me'don, overheard the talk of the suitors as they were in council and he hastened to tell Penelope of the plot. The unhappy queen was filled with grief. She wept aloud and her maids gathered around her weeping in sympathy. Then she severely rebuked them for not having informed her before her son's departure, and of what he was about to do.

"Had I known," cried she, "that he was planning this voyage I would have prevented it, or else he would have left me dead in this palace behind him."

But Euryclea told of how Telemachus had made her promise on oath that she would not let his mother know.

"He made me swear," said she, "that I would not tell thee before the twelfth day had passed, lest thou mightst make thyself ill with grieving. But now cease weeping and go up to thy chamber and pray to Minerva to protect thy son. She will hear thy prayer, for certain it is that the race of Ulysses is not hated by the gods."

The queen yielded to the advice of Euryclea, and ascended to her chamber with her maidens. There she prayed aloud to Minerva to save her son from the evil designs of the wicked suitors. The goddess heard her prayer, and soon afterward, when

her maids had retired, Penelope fell into a sweet sleep; and as she slept, a phantom in the likeness of her sister Iph-thi'ma came to her in a dream and spoke, saying:

“Be not sad, Penelope, for the gods protect thy son and he will return in safety.”

Penelope thought that it was her sister, and she answered and said:

“Why hast thou come, my sister? Thy home is far off and thou hast never been here before. Thou hast bid me not to be sad, but how can I cease from grieving, for now not only have I lost my husband, but my beloved son is gone, and his enemies are plotting to slay him.”

“Be of good courage,” the phantom replied. “Have no fear for thy son. The goddess Minerva has sent me to tell thee that she will guard him against all harm.”

“If thou be a goddess,” cried Penelope, “I pray thee tell me, also, whether my husband is still alive, or has gone down to the land of Pluto.”

“Of him,” answered the phantom, “I may not say whether he be alive or dead;” and so saying, the form vanished into the air.

Then Penelope awoke and rose up from her couch with a glad heart, believing that the goddess had heard and granted her prayer.

XXV. A VOYAGE ON A RAFT.

WE now return to Ulysses whom we left in Calypso's isle sorrowing that he could not sail over the sea to his beloved Ithaca. The messenger Mercury, as has been already said, was commanded by Jupiter to hasten down to Calypso and convey to her the decree of the gods that Ulysses should without further delay be permitted to depart.

"Tell her," said he, "that he shall prepare a raft, and, after sailing for twenty days and suffering many hardships, he will reach the land of Sche'ri-a, where the Phæ-a'cians dwell. They will honor him like a god, and send him in a ship to his native land."

With this message Mercury descended from Olympus, and, speeding like the wind over land and sea, came to the grotto of Calypso. The place was fragrant with the sweet odor of cedar wood that burned on the hearth within. Round about were many kinds of trees,—alders, poplars, and cypresses—in which were the nests of birds whose songs resounded through the air. Vines bearing heavy clusters of grapes crept all over the



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Mercury.

rock, and four fountains sent their waters, bright as crystal, streaming in different directions over soft, green meadows.

In this delightful dwelling the messenger of the gods found the fair nymph, Calypso, working at her loom and singing with beautiful voice as she wove a bright web with golden shuttle. But Ulysses was not in the grotto. He was sitting on the beach, looking out upon the great waters and sighing for his home and country.

As soon as Calypso saw Mercury she knew who he was, and invited him to enter. Then she conducted him to a golden throne and set before him a table spread with ambrosia and nectar, the food of the immortal gods. When he had eaten and drunk he delivered his message. He told Calypso everything as he had been commanded, and he warned her not to resist the will of Jupiter, lest his anger might come upon her. Then he departed, and ascending into the skies, returned to the mansions of the gods on high Olympus.

Calypso was much grieved on learning that Ulysses could remain no longer in her island, but she did not dare to disobey the divine command. She hastened down to the seashore where the hero sat sorrowing, and coming near him she said:

“Lament no longer, brave hero, for now I will

send thee on thy way. I will supply thee with all things necessary, and give thee a fair wind so that thou mayest return to thy native land."

Then she told him that he must cut down trees and build a raft on which to sail away. But Ulysses, when he heard this, was afraid that the goddess meant him some harm.

"How can I cross the terrible sea on a raft," said he, "when it is so hard even for good ships? I will not embark on a raft unless thou swear to me that thou dost not mean some evil against me."

"Canst thou suspect me," answered the goddess, "who have done naught to thee but good? However I swear by the earth and wide heaven, and by the water of the Styx, which is the most sacred oath of the gods, that I will not devise evil against thee, but shall do for thee as I would for myself in a like need."

They now returned to the grotto and Ulysses sat on the shining throne on which the messenger of the gods had sat. Then the nymph placed before him all kinds of the richest food that mortals eat. She herself took her seat opposite to him, and her maids brought her ambrosia and nectar. When their meal was over she spoke to him about his voyage, telling him that he had yet more dangers to encounter.

“Couldst thou but know,” said she, “what sufferings are before thee e’er thou canst reach thy native land, thou wouldst remain on this island with me.”

“Gracious goddess,” answered the hero, “I have already suffered much, and more I am ready to suffer to see again my wife and son and my country and my home.”

They conversed together for some time, and when darkness came they retired to their couches and lay down to repose for the night.

In the morning Calypso gave Ulysses an ax and an adze and led him to a corner of the island where tall trees grew — poplar and alder and pine. He cut down twenty of the tallest and lopped off the branches and dressed them. Calypso next brought him an auger with which he bored holes in the long trunks and he fitted them together and fastened them with pegs. Then he made a mast, and sail yard and a rudder, and fixed them in their places, and he fenced the sides all round with wicker work to protect himself against the rush of the waves. Calypso next brought linen for sails and the raft was properly rigged. Then ballast was put in to keep the raft steady, and it was moved into the water with levers.

All this work was done in four days, and on the fifth day everything was ready for departure.



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Calypso's Farewell to Ulysses.

Calypso now gave the hero beautiful new garments and a skin of good wine and a supply of water and provisions. Ulysses then took his leave of the fair nymph whose guest he had been for over seven years, and he embarked and set sail. The last gift of the friendly goddess was a favorable wind which bore the raft smoothly along, while Ulysses sat at the helm rejoicing that at length he was on his homeward voyage. So anxious was he to guard against any mishap, that he could not sleep. By day he watched the sun and by night the stars, so that he might keep his raft on the course which Calypso had directed him to take.

Thus he sailed for seventeen days, but on the eighteenth the shadowy hills of the land of Phæ-a'-ci-a appeared in the distance like a shield on the dark sea. Just then Neptune happened to be returning from Æthiopia, and he saw the little bark wafted gently along the surface of the calm waters. Enraged at the thought that Ulysses was approaching the end of his sufferings, the angry god exclaimed:

“Can it be that in my absence the immortals have granted favors to this man? He is now near a friendly land, and doubtless he hopes to escape further punishment at my hands, but I shall quickly send more calamity upon him.”

So saying the monarch of the ocean shook his trident and summoned the clouds and storms from all parts of the wide heavens. Instantly the light of day was shut out from sea and sky, and a terrific hurricane broke forth which lashed the waters into a raging tumult and swept furiously around the raft of Ulysses. The hero was almost paralyzed with terror and grief.

“Wretched man that I am,” he cried, “what is to become of me? I fear that all the goddess Calypso said to me was true, and that I must suffer more evils before I see my native land. How Jupiter has enveloped the heavens in dread darkness! The tempest rages more furiously. Certain destruction is coming upon me. O how happy were my comrades who fell fighting bravely before the walls of Troy! Would that I had died there, for then I should have had funeral rites, and great honor would be mine among the Greeks; but now I must perish by a miserable death.”

As he spoke a mighty wave rushed down upon the raft, tore the rudder from the hands of Ulysses, hurled him into the raging sea, broke the mast in two, and sent the sails flying over the waves.

For a long time Ulysses was under the water, for he was kept down by the weight of the garments Calypso had given him.

“The billow held him long
 Beneath the waters, and he strove in vain
 Quickly to rise to air from that huge swell
 Of ocean, for the garments weighed him down
 Which fair Calypso gave him.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book V.

At length, however, he rose to the surface. Then with a desperate effort he got within reach of the raft. He grasped it with both hands, and springing to the deck, he sat down and held on with all his might. The storm still raged furiously, and the raft was tossed to and fro upon the roaring waters.

But the sea goddess, Leu-co'the-a, took pity on the unfortunate hero, and came and rescued him from death. She had once been a mortal woman, and dwelt with her father, King Cad'mus of Thebes, but now she was a deity of the sea, and her abode was among the ocean nymphs beneath the wave. She appeared in the form of a cormorant, and perching on an end of the raft she spoke thus to Ulysses:

“O unfortunate man, why is the wrath of Neptune so violent against thee? But though he seeks to destroy thee, he shall not succeed. Listen to what I shall tell thee. Put off thy garments, let the raft go with the winds, and swim to the land of

the Phæacians. Take this scarf and spread it under thy breast and it will bear thee on in safety, for it cannot sink, as it was woven by a goddess. When thou hast reached the shore, take it off and throw it into the sea, turning thy face away while thou art casting it from thee."

"This heavenly scarf beneath thy bosom bind
And live ; give all thy terrors to the wind.
Soon as thy arms the happy shore shall gain,
Return the gift, and cast it in the main :
Observe my orders, and with heed obey,
Cast it far off, and turn thy eyes away."

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book V.

So saying she gave the hero the scarf, and then diving into the sea, she disappeared from his sight. Ulysses was in doubt whether he should do as the goddess had directed. He feared it might be a trick to deceive him. He, therefore, kept his seat as before, but in a few moments Neptune sent another mighty wave, which rent the raft asunder, scattering the beams of wood over the raging sea. Ulysses, with heroic effort, held on to one of them and sat upon it. Then he quickly threw off his clothes, spread under his breast the scarf the goddess had given him, jumped into the water and swam with all his might in the direction of the shore. Neptune saw him, and shaking his head he said to himself:

"Perhaps thou mayest escape, but even if so I think thou shalt have cause to remember my power."

But Minerva now came to the hero's aid. She bound up all the winds and made them keep still, except the north wind, which she left free to help Ulysses on his course. For two days and two nights he floated along, but on the third day he saw land. It was the land of the Phæacians, and he was near enough to hear the waves beating against the rocks and crags that bordered the shore. He was now in great fear lest a wave should sweep him in and dash him against one of the sharp cliffs.

"Alas," said he, "have I been borne with so much suffering over the stormy deep to meet my death on dry land! There is nowhere for me to rest my feet, and if I turn toward the sea Neptune may send his hurricanes against me."

While he was thus in doubt as to what course to take, a great wave came rushing on behind him and bore him swiftly to the craggy shore. His bones would have been fractured against the rugged cliffs, had not Minerva put it into his mind to grasp one of the rocks and hold on until the wave had spent its force. But quickly another huge swell rolled in and returning with a mighty sweep carried him again out to sea.

Then with a great effort he swam to another part of the coast, and soon he came to the mouth of a river where the land was free from rocks and where there was a shady grove to shelter him from the winds. Here he swam ashore, but no sooner had he touched dry earth than he fell down exhausted, the salt water gushing out of his mouth and nostrils. When he had recovered a little, he thought of the scarf, and he cast it into the sea according to the instructions of the goddess.

He now looked around for some spot on which to lie down and rest. The best place seemed to be the little grove, so he turned his steps in that direction. When he got there he found two olive trees growing close together, their leaves and branches intertwining and making a pleasant shade. Here Ulysses made a bed of leaves, and stretching his weary limbs upon it, he was soon sunk in sleep.



XXVI. CAST ASHORE IN PHÆACIA.

WHILE Ulysses was reposing under the olive trees, Minerva hastened to the palace of King Alcin'ous in the city of the Phæacians. There the king's daughter, Nau-sic'a-ä, a damsel beautiful as a goddess, lay sleeping in her chamber, and near her were two of her maiden attendants. Minerva entered the chamber like a breath of air. Then she took the likeness of the daughter of the famous mariner Dy'mas, a maiden whom Nausicaä loved, and appearing to the princess in a dream, she said:

“Nausicaä, why art thou so indolent? Thy splendid garments lie neglected, while thy wedding day is near when thou and thy maids should wear robes of spotless beauty. Let us then go together to wash them. I shall gladly be thy assistant. So early in the morning ask thy father for mules and a chariot to carry us and thy mantles and girdles; for the washing place is distant from the city, and it would not be seemly for thee to go on foot.”

In the morning Nausicaä wondered much at her

dream, and she hastened to speak with her parents about it. The queen was sitting at her loom weaving a purple web, and the king was about going forth to attend a council of his chiefs. Nausicaä begged her father to give her a chariot and mules that she and her maids might take her garments to the river to wash them and also some of the garments of other members of the family.

“It is fitting,” said she, “that thou thyself have clean robes when thou goest to the council of the chiefs. And my five brothers, three of whom are yet unmarried, would be pleased to have fresh laundered apparel when they go to the dance.”

She did not speak of her own marriage, but her father understood what was in her thoughts, and he gave orders to the servants to make ready the chariot. This was soon done, and the maids hastened to bring the garments that were to be washed and put them into the chariot, and they put in provisions and wine and a cruse of oil to anoint themselves after their bath, for they meant to bathe in the cool water of the crystal stream.

Then Nausicaä and the maidens who were to accompany her mounted into their places in the chariot. She herself took the reins, and they were soon speeding along at a rapid pace on the way to the river. When they reached the washing place,

which was at the mouth of the river close to the sea, they unyoked the mules and let them graze at will on the banks of the stream. Then they washed the garments, and spread them to dry on the gravelly beach where the small stones had been whitened by the tide.

While waiting for the garments to be dried, they bathed in the river, and anointed themselves with the oil. Then they sat down on the grass, spread out their provisions, and began to eat and drink. After their meal they amused themselves with playing at ball. They sang while they played, as was the custom in those times, and Nausicaä looked as beautiful among her maidens as the goddess Diana among her sporting nymphs.

At length it was time for them to prepare to return home, and they yoked their mules and packed the dry garments in the chariot. When they were just about to move off, Nausicaä threw the ball with which they had been playing to one of the maids. The damsel missed it, and it fell into the river. They all shouted out together, not knowing that there was a stranger lying asleep in the grove within a short distance from where they stood. Awakened by the noise, Ulysses, for it was he, started up and looking around him in astonishment, exclaimed:



Playing Ball.

“Woe is me! Am I again thrown among savage and cruel people who do not reverence the gods or show kindness to the distressed? But I think I have heard the voices of females. Perhaps they are nymphs of the mountains, or mortals who inhabit the place. I will try and see.”

Ulysses then broke from the trees some leafy branches and gathered them around his waist and limbs. Thus clad he issued from his retreat and walked toward the river bank, from which he thought the voices had come. When the maidens caught sight of him they all fled in terror in different directions. But Nausicaä did not flee, for Minerva had given her courage, and so she waited to see what might happen.

The first idea of Ulysses when he beheld the lady was to hasten forward, throw himself on his knees and beg her to give him clothing and show him the way to the city, if city there were in that country. But after a little consideration he thought it better not to approach too near, lest he should offend or frighten her. He therefore stood still, as soon as he had come within hearing distance, and addressing her, said:

“O lady, art thou a goddess or a mortal? If thou art a mortal, happy must thy father and mother be, but happier still will be he that shall lead thee



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Ulysses' Meeting with Nausicaä.

to his home as a bride, for never have I seen man or woman so beautiful. With wonder and reverence I behold thee, for thou art like the young palm tree I saw in De'los isle by the altar of Apollo. Never did a tree more beautiful spring from the earth, and I gazed upon it with admiration. Even so I look upon thee, and fear to come near thee to beg thy assistance, though I am in much need. Yesterday I was cast upon this shore after being tossed on the stormy sea for twenty days sailing from the island of Ogygia. I beseech thee, O lady, to have pity upon me. Show me the way to the city and give me some clothing, even though old and worn, if thou hast brought such with thee, and may the gods reward thee with every happiness thou canst desire."

When Ulysses ceased speaking, Nausicaä, who had listened with much attention, answered him saying:

"O stranger, thou dost not appear to be an unworthy man, but Jupiter gives happiness to mortals as he pleases, to the bad and to the good. To thee he has given griefs, and it is fitting that thou endure them in patience. But in this land thou shalt not want clothing or aught else a distressed stranger needs. I will show thee the way to our city. This land is Phæacia and I am the daughter of the king, Alcinous."

Nausicaä then called her maids and bade them show the stranger some sheltered spot near the river, where he might wash himself. She also told them to give him some garments which they might select from the clothing in the chariot. The maids cheerfully obeyed the commands of their mistress. They directed Ulysses to a suitable place on the river bank, and they took a tunic and mantle and other garments from the chariot and the cruse of oil to anoint himself with after bathing, and they placed them near him on the sand.

Then Ulysses washed himself and anointed his cleansed skin with the fragrant oil, and put on the rich garments they had given him. And Minerva gave him fresh strength and beauty, and his hair began to curl like a hyacinth flower

Jove's daughter, Pallas, caused him to appear
Of statelier size and more majestic mien,
And bade the locks that crowned his head flow down
Curling like blossoms of the hyacinth.

BRYANT, *Odyssey* Book VI.

The appearance of the stranger now excited the admiration of the maidens, and as he walked toward them Nausicaä said to her companions:

“ This man has come among us by the will of the immortals. Although at first he was unseemly,

now he looks like a god. But he must be hungry; let us give him food and drink."

The maids quickly placed before him some of the provisions they had brought with them in the chariot, and he ate greedily, for he had not had a meal for a long time. Then Nausicaä told him to accompany them until they came near the city, but not to approach the palace until after they should have reached home.

"If thou shouldst come with us into the city," said she, "some idle talkers might say: 'Who is this handsome stranger that Nausicaä brings? Perhaps she has invited him from over the sea to be her husband, thus making little of the men of Phæacia.' They might say such things, and it would be a reproach to me. Therefore do thou attend to what I tell thee. Outside the city there is a grove of poplars sacred to Minerva. Sit there and wait long enough for us to reach home; then go to the city and inquire for the palace of Alcinous. It is easy to find, for there is no other house of the Phæacians so beautiful. When thou shalt reach the door, enter and hasten through the halls until thou shalt come to the room where my mother sits at her loom. Thou shalt see my father sitting near, but pass by him, and throw thyself at my mother's feet, begging her good will that thou mayest return to thy own country."

“Near her is my father’s throne,
 On which he sits at feasts, and drinks the wine
 Like one of the immortals. Pass it by
 And clasp my mother’s knees ; so mayst thou see
 Soon and with joy the day of thy return,
 Although thy home be far. For if her mood
 Be kindly toward thee, thou mayst hope to greet
 Thy friends once more, and enter yet again
 Thy own fair palace in thy native land.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book VI.

Nausicaä having thus instructed Ulysses as to what he should do, started with her maids for the city. Ulysses accompanied them until they came to the grove of Minerva. There he waited and the others proceeded on their way and reached the palace about sunset.



XXVII. THE PALACE OF ALCINOUS.

As soon as Ulysses thought that time enough had elapsed to permit Nausicaä and her companions to reach the palace, he left the grove and went toward the city. Minerva threw about him a thick mist so that he might pass unseen, but he himself was able to see everything around him. As he was entering the city, the goddess appeared at his side in the form of a young maiden carrying a pitcher. As soon as he saw her he asked her to show him the way to the king's palace.

"I will gladly do so," replied the maiden, "the palace is near my father's house. I shall lead the way and do thou follow, but take care not to speak to any person or inquire about anything, for the people here do not like those who come from other lands."

She then walked on, and Ulysses followed until they came to the palace. Then the maiden again spoke:

"This, stranger, is the house you seek. Pass in without fear, and go first to the queen. They call her A-re'te. The people honor her as a goddess, for she is virtuous and wise. She settles all

their disputes, and if thou canst gain her favor, it will be well for thee."

The maiden then departed and Ulysses stood gazing in wonder at the lofty palace with its walls of brass, and doors of gold, and pillars of silver:

On every side beneath
The lofty roof of that magnanimous king
A glory shone as of the sun or moon.
There from the threshold, on each side, were walls
Of brass that led towards the inner rooms,
With blue steel cornices. The doors within
The massive building were of gold, and posts
Of silver on the brazen threshold stood,
And silver was the lintel, and above
Its architrave was gold; and on each side,
Stood gold and silver mastiffs.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book VII.

This bright palace stood in the middle of a beautiful garden where all kinds of rich fruits and flowers grew. The trees bore fruit all the year round, for in that favored land the mild and ever-blowing west wind caused growing buds to follow ripening fruit in perpetual succession.

The balmy spirit of the western gale
Eternal breathes on fruits, untaught to fail:
Each dropping pear a following pear supplies,
On apples apples, figs on figs arise:

The same mild season gives the blooms to blow,
The buds to harden, and the fruits to grow.

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book VII.

In this delightful garden there were two fountains. One of them sent its crystal streams through the trees and flowers, and the other flowed into a reservoir from which all the citizens filled their water vessels.

After standing for a while admiring these beauties, Ulysses entered the spacious hall of the palace. Here the chiefs and princes of the Phæacians were assembled making their libations of wine to Mercury which was one of the customary preparations for retiring to rest. Passing through the assembly Ulysses made his way to where Queen Arete sat beside the king; and he threw himself on his knees before her. Then suddenly the mist vanished from about him, and all were astonished at beholding a stranger whom they had not seen entering. But Ulysses, without paying any heed to the surprise of the assembly, addressed the queen and said:

“O Queen, I have come to thee and to thy husband and to these guests to beseech help after having endured many sufferings. May the gods grant that you shall live happily, and shall hand down your possessions in peace to your children. But aid me, I pray thee, to return to my native

land, for I have long been in grief, absent from my home and my friends."

When he had spoken these words Ulysses sat down in the ashes near the fire and all looked at him for some time in silent wonder. At length the oldest of the chiefs, the venerable hero Ech-e-ne'us, broke the silence and said:

"This is not to thy honor, O Alcinous, that a stranger in thy house should sit in the ashes. Raise him up and seat him on a throne and command thy servants to bring wine that we may make libations to Jupiter, the patron of suppliants; and let the housekeeper bring the stranger meat and drink."

On hearing this, Alcinous spoke words of welcome to Ulysses and taking him by the hand led him to a throne near that on which he himself had been sitting. He then ordered the servants to bring wine for the libation, and meat and drink for the stranger. When they had made their libations, pouring wine upon the ground in honor of Jupiter, and when Ulysses had refreshed himself by partaking of the good things set before him, the king addressed the assemblage saying:

"Chiefs and leaders, to-morrow we shall meet in council to consider about sending the stranger to his home. Then we shall fittingly entertain him and make sacrifices to the gods."

They all approved of the proposal of the king. Soon afterward they withdrew from the palace, and each went to his own home. Ulysses remained in the banqueting hall and talked with the king and queen. It was not long before the queen recognized the garments he wore as some of the work of her own loom, and she said to him :

“Stranger, who art thou, and who gave thee these garments? Surely thou canst not say that thou hast come over the sea wearing these.”

Ulysses then told the story of his voyage on the raft, of his being cast ashore at the mouth of the river, and of the princess giving him clothing and food and directing him to the city. Alcinous was displeased that Nausicaä had not brought him with her to the palace. But Ulysses made an excuse for her. He said that he himself had not wished it, for he feared that the king might be angry if a stranger should come to his house with his daughter and her maids.

The king then spoke friendly words to Ulysses, telling him that on the morrow they would make suitable preparations for his return to his home. After some further conversation they all retired to rest for the night.

XXVIII. HONORED BY THE PHÆACIANS.

NEXT morning King Alcinous conducted Ulysses to the forum where the council was to be held. Minerva, disguised as a herald, had previously gone through the city, calling the chiefs to the assembly, and to each she spoke, saying:

“Hasten to the forum and see the stranger who is a guest in the house of Alcinous. He has wandered over many seas, and in beauty he is like a god.”

When the chiefs were assembled the king told them about the stranger.

“He has wandered in many lands,” said he, “and he has been cast helpless on our shores. He begs us to send him to his home from which he has been long absent. Let us give him a ship and a crew of our best seamen. No stranger is denied succor who seeks it at our hands. While the young men prepare the ship, do you chiefs come to my palace, that we may entertain the stranger as is fitting, and the bard De-mod’o-cus will make our festivity joyous with song.”

Then the king returned to the palace accompanied by Ulysses and the chiefs; and soon a rich banquet was spread in the great hall, and they sat down at the well-filled tables. The herald Ponton'o-üs led in Demodocus, and conducted him to a seat of honor, placing the harp within reach of his hand, for the minstrel was blind.

Pontonoüs mid the guests
Placed for the bard a silver-studded throne,
Against a lofty column hung his harp
Above his head, and taught him how to find
And take it down. Near him the herald set
A basket and fair table, and a cup
Of wine, that he might drink when he desired;
Then all put forth their hands and shared the feast.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book VIII.

After the banquet the minstrel played upon his harp and sang a song about the Trojan War. It told of a dispute between Achilles and Ulysses as to how Troy could be taken, and the war brought to an end. Achilles contended that the city could be taken only by force, and Ulysses said that it could be taken only by stratagem.

This was the subject of the song of Demodocus. Ulysses wept as he listened and drew his mantle over his face to hide his tears. King Alcinous was the only one of the company who noticed the stranger's

distress, and to divert his mind from the subject of his grief he arose and said :

“ Let us now go forth and take part in trials of strength and speed, that our guest, when he returns home, may tell his friends how much the Phæacians excel in leaping and running and other contests.”

The king himself led the way, and all followed him to the forum, where the young athletes immediately began to show their skill in various exercises, while the elders sat down as spectators.

La-od'a-mas, the king's eldest son, proved himself to be the best boxer, and his brother Clyt-o-ne'us won in the foot race. A young chief, Eu-ry'a-lus, was the best at wrestling; another chief, E-la'treus, threw the quoit further than any other, and Amphi'a-lus was the champion at leaping.

After they had all taken part in many of the exercises, Euryalus invited the stranger to show his skill, but Ulysses answered :

“ Why, my friend, dost thou ask me to join in your sports when my mind is troubled about other things? I sit among you thinking only of my home and country and how to return to my dear wife and son.”

Then Euryalus remarked in a tone of contempt that the stranger did not look like a man who had any skill in the exercises of heroes.

"Doubtless," said he, "thou art one whose care is trade and the gaining of wealth."

"This is not spoken well," said Ulysses, looking sternly at Euryalus. "The gods do not endow all alike with the gifts of beauty and wisdom and eloquence. To thee they have given a handsome form but not much understanding, for thou hast uttered foolish words. I am not unskilled in exercises, as thou dost say. In my youth I was among the first in such things, but I have suffered much in war and on the stormy waves. Nevertheless, since thou dost provoke me to it by thy offensive words, I will make trial of my skill."

So saying he started up and seizing the largest and heaviest of the quoits, he swung it around his head and hurled it off with mighty force. It whizzed through the air, and flew far beyond the points reached by the quoits the others had thrown. Minerva marked the spot, for she was there in the form of an attendant, and she said to Ulysses:

"Stranger, a blind man could distinguish this mark, it is so far from the others. Sure I am that none of the Phæacians can pass it."

Then Ulysses challenged them all to compete with him in boxing or in the foot race.

"I shall make trial with all of you youths," said he, "except Laodamas who is my host, for it is

not seemly to contend with a host. In any contests becoming a man I can compete. I well know how to handle the polished bow, and I can hurl a spear as far as any one can send an arrow. Perhaps some of you may excel me in running, for my limbs have lost strength through hard labor and much suffering on the stormy sea."

As no one ventured to answer this challenge, King Alcinous arose from his seat and said:

"Stranger, thy words are not offensive to us, but we Phæacians have not much skill in boxing or wrestling. We are swift in running, and are skilled in managing ships. In dancing also we take pleasure. And now our young men shall show how they surpass in this exercise, so that when thou shalt return home thou mayest tell thy friends."

Then Demodocus took his harp and played, and the youths danced. The king's sons, Laodamas and Ha'li-us, were the best dancers, and the king commanded them to dance alone. One of them threw a purple ball high into the air, and the other caught it as it came down. Then they cast it from one to the other while they danced, and the assembly loudly applauded.

One flung it towards the shadowy clouds on high,
The other springing upward easily
Grasped it before it touched the ground again.

And when they thus had tossed the ball awhile,
 They danced upon the nourishing earth, and oft
 Changed places with each other, while the youths
 That stood within the circle filled the air
 With their applauses.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book VIII.

When this dance was over, Ulysses expressed admiration of the performance, and the young men were highly pleased. The king then addressing the assembly, said:

“Chiefs of Phæacia, this stranger seems a good and wise man. Let us now make him presents such as generous hosts should bestow on a deserving guest. There are twelve princes of Phæacia and I am the thirteenth. Let each of us give him a mantle and a tunic and a talent of gold, and let us bring them immediately that our guest may see them and have cause for rejoicing before he sits down to our evening feast. Let Euryalus also bring a gift, and so make amends for his thoughtless words to the stranger.”

They all approved of the proposal of the king and each of the princes sent a herald to bring his gifts. The gift of Euryalus was a silver-hilted sword with a scabbard of ivory. Ulysses, after receiving it and speaking grateful words to the youth, slung the weapon by his side.

The heralds soon brought the other gifts, and as

it was now sundown the king and all the princes and chiefs returned to the palace. Queen Arete gathered all the costly presents together and placed them in a beautiful chest. She also put into the chest a magnificent golden cup which the king added to his own gifts. Then the queen told Ulysses to fasten the lid himself and bind the chest round with a strong cord so that it might be secure during his voyage home.

“Look to the lid thyself, and cast a cord
Around it, lest, upon thy voyage home,
Thou suffer loss, when haply thou shalt take
A pleasant slumber in the dark-hulled ship.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book VIII.

When he had fastened the lid of the chest and firmly bound it with a cord the attendants conducted Ulysses to the bath. After bathing, he anointed himself with oil and put on beautiful garments which they had prepared for him — garments made by Queen Arete's own hands. On his way back to the banqueting hall, where the king and the chiefs were waiting to receive and entertain him, he was accosted by the beauteous Nausicaä who was standing near one of the pillars that supported the lofty roof of the palace.

“Stranger,” said she, “I bid thee farewell. Soon thou shalt depart for thy native land. When dwell-

ing there wilt thou sometimes remember that to me thou owest the preservation of thy life?"

"Daughter of the noble Alcinous," replied Ulysses, "thou hast indeed saved my life, and all my days I shall remember and bless thee."

He then entered the hall and was conducted to a seat beside the king at a table spread with rich food and drinks. Demodocus, the bard, was also in his place of honor, and when the feast was over, Ulysses requested him to sing again about the Trojan War, and particularly about the wooden horse by which the city was destroyed. The minstrel took his harp and struck its chords with the hand of a master. Then he began his song.

Before it was finished Ulysses was again in tears, for much of the song was about himself. It told how the Greeks sailed away from Troy leaving the wooden horse behind them on the plain; how the Trojans dragged the horse within their walls; and how, in the dead of night when they were all asleep, Ulysses and his companions came out and gave the signal to the other Greeks, who quickly returned and destroyed the city.

While listening to the bard singing about the deeds of himself and his brave comrades in the great war, Ulysses could not refrain from weep-

ing. King Alcinous noticed the distress of his guest and wished to know the cause of it, so he arose and said :

“ Chiefs of the Phæacians, there is some grief in the heart of our guest. The singing of the bard is not pleasant to him, for while listening he has been weeping. Let us beg him to be comforted, for our banquet is in his honor and we regard him as a brother. And let us ask him to tell us about himself. We wish to know his name and the name of his country, so that we may send him safely thither. For our people know many countries and seas, and many they have conducted safely over the waves. Indeed I have heard my father say that Neptune was angry with us for conducting so many, and threatened that some day he would destroy a Phæacian ship returning from such a voyage, and change it into a mountain in front of our harbor, so that no more of our ships should go forth. But now, stranger, tell us of thy wanderings, what countries and people thou hast seen, and why thou art grieved at hearing about Troy. Perhaps some of thy kindred have perished before its walls, or perhaps thou hast lost a beloved comrade.”

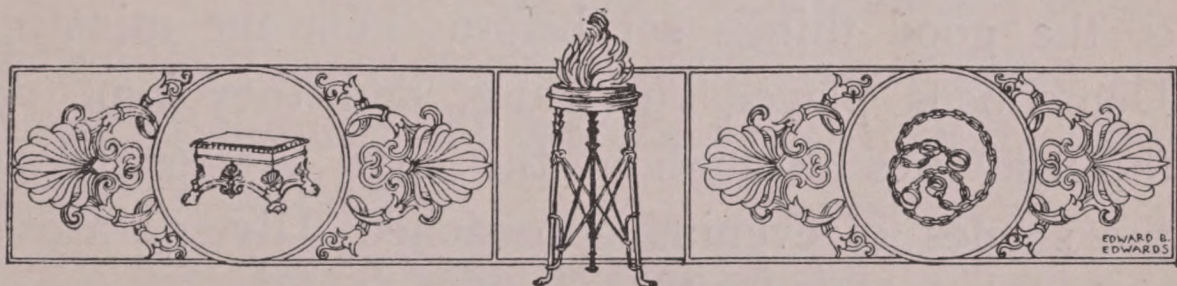
Ulysses at once complied with the request of the king. He told who he was, and related his adventures from the time he and his companions left

Troy until, alone and helpless, he met the princess Nausicaä and her maids at the seashore.

King Alcinous and the Phæacian chiefs listened in wonder to the story, and when it was finished the king said:

“O Ulysses, great indeed have been thy sufferings, but thou shalt soon be happy in thy own country. To you chiefs I say let us give this noble guest other gifts before he departs. Let us each give him a tripod and a vase, for of such honor he is worthy.”

The chiefs applauded the words of the king and the festivities of the day being now at an end they all returned to their homes to rest for the night.



XXIX. ITHACA AT LAST.

IN the morning the chiefs brought their gifts to the ship, which was now ready for sailing. The king himself went down and examined all parts of the vessel to see that everything was properly arranged for the voyage. Then he returned to the palace, accompanied by the chiefs, and another grand banquet was prepared to honor their guest before his departure.

King Alcinous sacrificed an ox to Jupiter, and after the religious ceremonies they all took their places at the well-filled tables, Ulysses again sitting beside the king. When they had partaken of the good things set before them the minstrel Demodocus played and sang, and they kept up the festivities throughout the day. At length, as the shades of evening approached, Ulysses arose, and addressing the king, said:

“O illustrious King, it is now time that, after making libation to the gods, I should say farewell. Thou hast given me all things that my mind could wish. May thy gifts prosper for me, and may I find my home and my wife and my son and my

friends in safety. As for thee and thy people, may the gods send you every blessing, and may evil never come upon thy country."

They all applauded the words of Ulysses. Then they prayed to Jupiter to give him a prosperous voyage, and they poured out libations of wine to the god. Ulysses now arose, and approaching Queen Arete he said:

"Farewell, noble lady. May thy life be long and happy with thy family and thy people."

Ulysses then left the palace, accompanied by a herald sent by the king to escort him to the ship. The chest containing the gifts was also brought down, and Queen Arete sent a fresh mantle and tunic and provisions for the voyage.

When Ulysses had embarked he lay down to sleep. Then the rowers took their seats and began to ply their oars vigorously, and soon the ship was speeding through the waters away from the land of the Phæacians.

Now placed in order, the Phæacian train
 Their cables loose, and launch into the main :
 At once they bend, and strike their equal oars,
 And leave the sinking hills and lessening shores,
 While on the deck the chief in silence lies
 And pleasing slumbers steal upon his eyes.

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book XIII.

They sailed all night, and when at dawn of morn-

ing they reached Ithaca Ulysses still lay sleeping. They ran the vessel into a small harbor, at the end of which was a cave beneath the spreading branches of an olive tree. This was the harbor of Phor'cys, and the cave was one of the grottoes of the nymphs or sea-goddesses called Na'íads. Within the grotto were drinking vessels of stone, and an ever-flowing fountain of cool, fresh water, and the bees had their hives there, and there was a stone distaff on which the nymphs spun thread for their purple robes. The grotto had two entrances, one for mortal men and the other only for the gods.

Two are the entrances : one toward the north
By which men enter ; but a holier one
Looks toward the south, nor ever mortal foot
May enter there. By that way pass the gods.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XIII.

The Phæacian sailors drew their bark up to the beach near this grotto, and they lifted the still sleeping Ulysses from his bed, and carrying him ashore laid him gently on the sand. They also carried ashore the chest and all the other gifts which Ulysses had received from King Alcinous and his chiefs, and placed them carefully down beneath the olive tree, so that the hero might see them when he awoke. Then they returned to their ship and set sail for home.

Meanwhile Neptune, finding that Ulysses had thus at length reached his home, made bitter complaint to Jupiter, saying:

“Who shall ever again honor me or fear me, since the Phæacians so dishonor me? It was my wish that Ulysses should suffer more before the end of his wanderings, though he was at last to reach his country in safety, since thou didst so decree. But now the Phæacians have borne him to Ithaca more richly laden with gifts than if he had returned with the spoils he took from Troy.”

But Jupiter answered him, saying:

“O Neptune, none will rashly dare to dishonor the ruler of the ocean, for thine is still the power to punish such offenders. As for the Phæacians, do with them as thou wilt.”

“I would raise a storm and destroy their ship as it returns from Ithaca,” answered the god, “and I would place before their city a mountain to hide it from men voyaging over the sea, so that the Phæacians no more should receive strangers and convey them home in their ships. This I should do but that I fear I might offend thee.”

“Do as thou sayest, my brother,” replied Jupiter, “strike their ship as it enters their harbor, and change it into a mountain to hide their city from men sailing on the sea.”



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Neptune.

Neptune hastened immediately to the island of Scheria, and as the ship was entering the harbor, on its return from Ithaca, he struck it a mighty blow with his open hand. Instantly it was transformed into a huge rock, the top of which rose high in front of the city.

He flew to Scheria, the Phæacian isle,
And stood, until that galley, having crossed
The sea, came swiftly scudding. He drew near
And smote it with his open palm, and made
The ship a rock, fast rooted in the bed
Of the deep sea, and then he went his way.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XIII.

Thus did the offended monarch of the ocean punish the Phæacians. When Alcinous heard of it he again remembered the prophecy of his father Nau-sith'o-us who long ago had said that one day Neptune would destroy a Phæacian ship and shut in their city by a lofty mountain.



XXX. DISGUISED AS A BEGGAR.

WHEN Ulysses awoke from his sleep he stood up and looked around in great astonishment. He did not know where he was, for Minerva had shed a mist over him so that he might not be recognized by any one until he should learn all about the conduct of the suitors and punish them as they deserved.

So the hero feared he was again in some country inhabited by cruel men like the Cyclops or the Læstrygonians, and he was angry with the Phæacians for having, as he thought, broken their promise to take him to Ithaca. He was glad, however, to find that the gifts he had received were safe, for he soon noticed the chest and examined everything in it.

Then he walked along the shore grieving much and wondering what he ought to do. Suddenly Minerva appeared before him in the form of a young shepherd and looking as beautiful as the son of a king. Ulysses at once accosted the youth and inquired what country that was and what people lived in it.

“O stranger,” answered the goddess, “thou hast

surely come from a distant country if thou hast not heard of this island. It is not without a name, and it is known to all men from east to west. A rugged island indeed it is, and not very large, yet it is neither poor nor barren, for it produces plenty of corn and wine, and it is excellent for feeding oxen and goats. Its fields are watered by seasonable rains, and every kind of wood is found in its forests. The fame of Ithaca, for so the island is named, has reached even to Troy, which they say is far from the Grecian land."

Ulysses rejoiced to hear that at last he was in his own beloved country. Not wishing, however, to make himself known to the stranger, he said that he had come from the island of Crete, where he had killed the son of I-dom-e-ne'us the king, for having tried to take from him his share of the spoils he had won in the Trojan War.

"When I killed him," continued he, "I embarked on a ship bound for Pylos, but contrary winds drove us to this coast, where we landed. I lay down to sleep, and while I slept, my companions carried my things ashore, and then sailed away leaving me behind."

The goddess smiled while listening to this story. When Ulysses ceased speaking she took the form of a tall and beautiful woman, and then said:

“O deceitful man, even in thy own land thou canst not refrain from crafty words. But let us not speak of these things. Know that I am Minerva, the daughter of Jupiter, who have watched thee and guarded thee and made the Phæacians thy friends. I am now come to tell thee what thou hast yet to endure in thy own house, and to counsel thee what to do.”

Ulysses answered as if he were still in doubt that he was in his own country.

“O goddess,” said he, “it is difficult for a mortal to know thee when he meets thee, for thou canst take any form at thy pleasure. But I know well thou hast been my friend, yet I cannot think that I am in Ithaca, for this seems another land. Tell me truly, I pray thee, if indeed I am in my own country.”

“Truly, thou art in Ithaca,” replied the goddess, “and I will show thee certain places that thou wilt easily know. This is the haven of Phorcys, and there is the shady grotto of the Naiads, where thou didst often sacrifice to the nymphs, and yonder thou mayst see the mountain Ner’i-tos clad with forests.”

Then the goddess dispelled the mist that she had shed around Ulysses. Instantly he saw and recognized the whole landscape, and falling down he kissed

the earth of his beloved Ithaca. When he arose he prayed to the nymphs, imploring their good will, and promising to offer up sacrifices to them as of old, when he should be once again in possession of his house and kingdom.

Minerva now directed him to carry into the grotto the gifts he had received from the Phæacians. When this was done, they sat down at the foot of the olive tree, and the goddess talked with him about the suitors and gave him instructions what he should do to punish them.

“For three years,” said she, “they have made themselves masters in thy house, seeking to induce thy wife to take one of them for her husband. But she kept them off with promises and vain hopes, and all the while she thought of thee and prayed for thy return.”

“In truth,” exclaimed Ulysses, “I should have been slain in my own house like the unhappy Agamemnon, but for thy warning. Stand by me still, O goddess, as thou wast with us when we destroyed the city of Troy. With thy aid I shall not fear to encounter all my enemies.”

“I shall not fail thee,” replied the goddess. “But now I must change thy appearance that they may not know thee until the work thou hast to do is done. I will change thee into a wrinkled old

man with ragged garments and thou shalt appear but a beggar to thy son and to thy wife and to the suitors.

“First go to the swineherd, for he loves thee and thy family. Thou wilt find him tending the swine near the rock of Co’rax, by the fountain Ar-e-thu’sa. He feeds them on acorns and gives them water from the fountain to drink. Remain there and inquire of him whatever thou desirest to know. Meanwhile, I will go to Sparta to tell thy son to hasten home. He has gone there to the palace of Menelaus to seek tidings of thee.”

“There remain, and carefully
Inquire of all that thou wouldst know, while I,
Taking my way to Sparta, the abode
Of lovely women, call Telemachus,
Thy son, Ulysses, who hath visited
King Menelaus in his broad domain,
To learn if haply thou art living yet.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XIII.

When she ceased speaking, she touched Ulysses with her wand. Instantly his skin wrinkled on his face, his limbs bent, and he became a miserable looking old man. She then gave him dirty, tattered clothes to put on, as well as a staff and a beggar’s bag to carry in his hand, and a great, heavy deerskin to wear over his shoulders.

Pallas spake and touched him with her wand,
 And caused the blooming skin to shrivel up
 On his slow limbs, and the fair hair to fall,
 And with an old man's wrinkles covered all
 His frame, and dimmed his lately glorious eyes.
 Another garb she gave,— a squalid vest ;
 A ragged, dirty cloak, all stained with smoke ;
 And over all the huge hide of a stag,
 From which the hair was worn. A staff, beside,
 She gave, and shabby scrip with many a rent,
 Tied with a twisted thong.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XIII.

Having thus arranged their plans, Minerva sped
 away to Sparta to bring home Telemachus, leaving
 Ulysses disguised as a beggar to proceed to the
 dwelling of the swineherd.



XXXI. EUMÆUS, THE SWINEHERD.

ULYSSES was not long in reaching the house of the swineherd. He needed no guide, for he well knew all the roads in Ithaca. The swineherd, whose name was Eu-mæ'us, had been a faithful servant during all the years of his master's absence. Ulysses found him sitting at the door of a large court or yard which he himself had built for the swine while his master was away. It was built of heavy stones, and was inclosed by a fence or hedge of hawthorn, backed all round by a paling of oak stakes set close together.

In this inclosure there were twelve sties for the swine, and in each there were fifty sows. The males were kept outside the sties. There were not so many of them as of the sows, and their number was getting less every day, for Eumæus had to send the best of them to the palace to supply meat for the table of the greedy suitors. Near the sties four large dogs, as strong and fierce as wild beasts, kept guard on the stock.

Eumæus, as he sat at the door, was occupied

making shoes, or sandals, for himself out of the hide of an ox. His four assistants were busy elsewhere. Three were tending swine in the pasture fields, and the fourth had gone to the city with one of the swine for the suitors' dinner.

As Ulysses approached, the dogs rushed at him barking furiously, and they might have torn him to pieces, but that the swineherd jumped up quickly and drove them away. Then he spoke to the stranger:

"Old man," said he, "the dogs were near doing thee harm and for that I would be much grieved. But other sorrow the gods have sent upon me. I mourn the loss of a noble master and I feed his swine for others to eat, while he himself wanders in strange lands, perhaps needing food, if indeed he be alive. But come in, and I will give thee meat and drink, and when thou art refreshed thou mayest tell me whence thou hast come and what thy trouble is, for thou hast the appearance of one in distress."

Then he brought the stranger into his own hut and made him a seat of rushes on the floor and covered it with goatskin. He prepared a meal for him of pig's flesh and gave him a cup of good wine to drink. When the meal was over Ulysses thanked the swineherd for his hospitality, praying the gods to bless him for his kindness to a poor stranger.



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Ulysses and Eumæus.

Then he requested Eumæus to tell him of the absent master of whom he had spoken.

“My friend,” said he, “who was the master of whom thou hast spoken? Tell me his name. I may know something of him. Perhaps, indeed, I may have seen him, for I have wandered in many lands.”

“Old man,” replied the swineherd, “thy story, I fear, would be but an idle one. Many wanderers pass here and tell their tales to my mistress about having seen her husband. She welcomes them and entertains them, and while listening to what they tell, the tears fall from her eyes. But he comes not home, therefore we all lament, and I as much as any, for never can I find another master so good as Ulysses. He loved me much and cared for me; but I shall not see him again, for he has surely perished.”

Then Ulysses said:

“My friend, take courage. Thy master will return. Thou shalt find that what I say will come to pass. I am not as those idle tale tellers, for I hate all such. Ulysses will soon be home, and he will be avenged on those who insult his wife and his son.”

“Old man,” replied the swineherd, “do not seek to deceive me by false hopes. Let us think of

other things; enough there is to trouble us. I lament also for my master's son, Telemachus, a noble youth. Some evil counsel hath tempted him to go to Pylos in quest of tidings of his father, and the suitors have made a plot to lie in wait for him and slay him on his return. But now, old man, tell me about thyself. What is thy country, and how didst thou come to our island?"

Ulysses answered these questions by a story much the same as he had related to the goddess Minerva while she conversed with him near the grotto of the Naiads in the form of a shepherd. He did not want just yet to tell the faithful swineherd who he really was, and so he told him that he was the son of a rich man in Crete, and that he had gone to the Trojan War with Idomeneus, the king of that island. After the war he had had many adventures, and in E-pi'rus he had heard that Ulysses had been there but a short time before. Then he embarked in a vessel bound for the island of Du-lich'i-um. On the voyage the sailors robbed him and gave him ragged garments, intending to keep him as a slave, but he contrived to escape from the ship, and swam to the shore where he had slept the previous night.

Eumæus was not very sure that he ought to believe this story; however, he spoke kindly to the

stranger, and invited him to remain with him for the night. When the other swineherds returned supper was prepared, and they all sat down and ate together. After supper it rained hard, and the wind blew cold, and Ulysses thought he would like to get a cloak to cover him while he slept, so he told the swineherds this story:

“I wish,” said he, “that I were as young and strong as when we formed an ambush under the walls of Troy. The leaders of it were Menelaus and Ulysses, but they desired me to accompany them with the others. When we reached the walls we crouched down among the thick bushes near the fortifications. It was a cold night, for snow fell, and ice was formed upon our shields. The others had cloaks, but I had left mine behind, not thinking it would be so cold. In the middle of the night I touched Ulysses on the arm and spoke to him, for he lay next to me. ‘Son of Laertes,’ said I, ‘I fear I shall perish of cold. I have no cloak.’ Immediately his crafty mind thought of a plan, and he spoke to the others, saying: ‘Friends, I have had a dream that there is danger in this ambush, and being far from our ships, we shall need more men. Let some one hasten to Agamemnon and ask him to send us help.’

“Hearing this, one of our companions quickly

rose up, and throwing off his cloak that he might run fast, he hastened away to Agamemnon's camp. Then I picked up the cloak, and wrapping myself in it, slept till morning. Would that I were young and strong as then, and some friend might give me a cloak. But there is little regard for one who is old and poor."

"Old man," replied Eumæus, "thou shalt not want for covering for the night, nor aught else that we can give thee. But we have not many cloaks, nor much change of garments. If thou be in Ithaca when the son of Ulysses returns he may give thee a cloak and a tunic."

Eumæus now made a bed for the stranger, and spread it with skins of sheep and of goats. Ulysses lay down to rest, but Eumæus did not sleep in the hut. He wrapped his cloak around him, and went out and lay down near the sties that he might be at hand to guard the swine in case of danger.



XXXII. TELEMACHUS RETURNS TO ITHACA.

MEANWHILE Minerva had gone to Sparta to order Telemachus to return home. It was early morning, and the young prince was still asleep, but he slept lightly for he was troubled about his father. The goddess stood by his bedside and appearing to him as a vision in a dream, bade him return at once to Ithaca.

“ Penelope’s father and brothers,” said she, “ are pressing her to marry Eu-rym’a-chus, the richest of the suitors, and she is in grief, having no one to help her. Hasten home, therefore. But there is danger in thy way that I must tell thee of. The suitors have sent a ship and men to lie in wait for thee near Samos, seeking to kill thee. Keep far from that island and sail in the night. The gods will give thee a favoring wind. When thou shalt reach Ithaca send thy ship and crew to the city, but go thyself to the swineherd’s hut. Sleep there for the night, and the swineherd will go to thy mother and tell her that thou hast safely returned.”

After speaking thus, Minerva ascended to high Olympus. Telemachus immediately awoke, and

rose from his bed. Then he hastened to make preparations to set forth at once, as the goddess had commanded. First he aroused Pisistratus, and as soon as Menelaus came from his bedchamber into the great hall, he begged him to permit them to depart without delay. The king would fain have had his guests prolong their stay, but he yielded to the entreaty of Telemachus, seeing that he desired so much to return home.

Then costly gifts were brought from the treasure room of the palace to be presented to the son of Ulysses. One of them was a solid silver bowl with rim of gold. This was the gift of Menelaus himself, and the most precious of all the king's treasures, for it was made by Vulcan, the god of the smiths, who made the golden palaces of Jupiter on Mount Olympus. The gift of Megapenthes, the king's son, was a silver drinking cup, and Queen Helen's gift was a magnificent bridal robe for Telemachus to give to his wife on his wedding day. It was wrought by the queen's own hands and its rich embroidery glittered like twinkling stars. These costly things were placed in the chariot by Pisistratus, who much admired their beauty.

King Menelaus now conducted his guests into the banqueting room where a rich feast was spread before them.

The fair-haired king
Then led them to the hall, and seated them
On thrones and couches, where a maiden brought
Water in a fair golden ewer, and o'er
A silver basin poured it for their hands,
And near them set a table smoothly wrought.
The matron of the palace brought them bread
And many a delicate dish to please the taste
From stores within the house.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XV.

When the banquet was over, the horses were yoked to the chariot. Then Pisistratus and Telemachus mounted to their seats, and the king and queen stood at the palace gate to bid them farewell. Telemachus thanked them for their hospitality and gifts, and hoped that he might soon have the happiness of seeing his beloved father and telling him of the kindness he had received from the noble King Menelaus.

As the young prince ceased speaking, an eagle suddenly appeared flying in the air in front of the horses. It bore in its talons a large white goose that it had seized in the poultry yard of the palace, and some of the women servants came running after it and shouting. The young princes in the chariot were astonished at the sight. Pisistratus considered it to be a sign or omen sent by the gods, and he asked King Menelaus if he could explain

what it meant. The king could give no explanation, but Queen Helen declared it was an omen and a good one for Telemachus.

"Listen to me, O princes," said she, "for the gods have put it in my mind to tell what the omen means. As this eagle, coming from the mountains, his native haunts, has snatched away the tame bird, so will Ulysses, after much suffering and many wanderings, return to his home and be avenged upon those suitors who have wronged him. Perhaps, indeed, he is already at home and devising plans for their destruction."

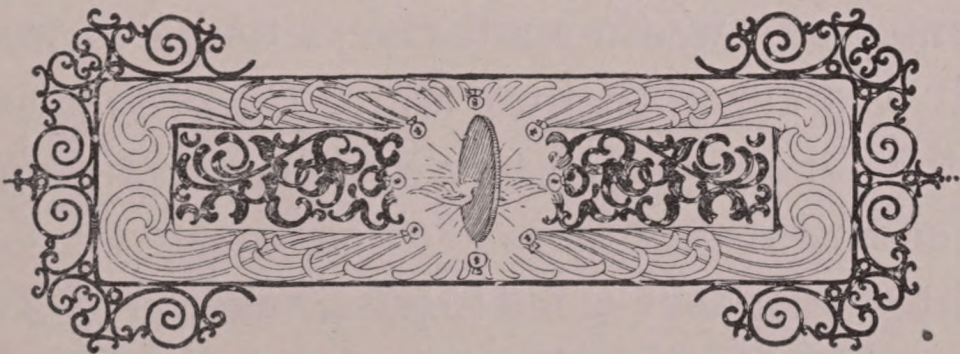
"O lady," exclaimed Telemachus, "may the gods grant that it shall come to pass. Then will I make offerings to thee as to a divinity!"

The two princes now bade farewell to the king and queen and set off on their journey. By sundown they reached Pheræ, and were, as before, entertained for the night at the palace of King Diocles. In the morning they started off again, and traveled all day until they came to Pylos.

As they approached the city, Telemachus begged Pisistratus to drive direct to the ship, for he feared that if he should go to the palace, the king would through kindness detain him. Pisistratus, though reluctant to part so soon with his new friend, complied with the request, and soon they were at the

shore, where Telemachus found the galley and crew awaiting him. Without delay he sent the gifts aboard and bade farewell to Pisistratus. Then he embarked and on the deck offered prayers and poured out libations of wine to Minerva.

While he was engaged in this religious ceremony, a stranger on the shore learning that it was Telemachus, the son of Ulysses, who was about to sail, cried out to him, begging to be taken aboard. He said his name was The-o-clym'e-nus, that he had killed a man in a quarrel, and that the friends of the dead man were pursuing him to put him to death. Telemachus yielded to his entreaty, and so the stranger was received on board the galley. Then they set sail, and with a favorable wind sent by the goddess, they were speedily wafted along on their voyage to Ithaca.



XXXIII. TELEMACHUS MEETS HIS FATHER.

By morning the voyagers safely reached the coast of Ithaca, without seeing anything of the vessel sent out by the suitors to lie in ambush. They ran their galley in to the shore and landed and prepared their morning meal on the beach. Telemachus ordered the crew to take the vessel to the city, telling them that he himself had to go to the fields to see his flocks.

As he was about to depart, a hawk appeared in the air holding a dove in its talons. In a few moments the dove dropped down on the sand in front of the young prince. Seeing this, Theoclymenus, who was a soothsayer, told Telemachus that it was an omen from the gods, which meant that the family of Ulysses would prevail against their enemies.

“If thy prophecy come to pass,” answered Telemachus, “I shall give thee proofs of my friendship, but now I can only commend thee to the care of a companion.”

Then calling Pi-ræ'us, one of the crew, he said to him :

“Thou hast been faithful and friendly during our voyage, O Piræus. Take this stranger to thy house and entertain him for my sake, until I shall come to thee.”

Piræus answered that the stranger should have welcome and hospitality in his house. Then the crew went aboard to proceed with the ship to the city, and Telemachus started off to the hut of the swineherd.

Ulysses and Eumæus were just then sitting together taking their morning meal. The other herdsmen had gone forth at early dawn to drive the swine to their pasture among the hills. Eumæus and his guest soon heard the sound of footsteps approaching the door. The dogs heard it too, but instead of barking furiously as on the appearance of a stranger, they ran to the door wagging their tails and showing other signs of pleasure, as if they knew who was coming and were eager to welcome him. Ulysses noticing this said to Eumæus :

“Some friend or companion of thine is coming, for the dogs do not bark, but go to fawn upon him.”

Scarcely had he spoken when his son Telemachus appeared at the door. Eumæus started up with a cry of joy and rushing forward embraced the youth

as a father would embrace his child returning home after a long absence. Then with tears of pleasure running down his cheeks the faithful swineherd said:

“I never thought I should see thee again when thou didst sail away for Pylos. But come in, my dear child, and stay with me a little while, for thou dost not often visit thy herdsman, though it must be painful to thee to dwell in the city, seeing the evil deeds of the suitors.”

“My good friend,” answered Telemachus, “I gladly come here now, for I wish to learn from thee about my mother, whether she is still at the palace or whether any evil has happened to her.”

“Thy mother is still at the palace,” replied the swineherd, “and night and day she weeps for thee and thy absent father.”

The young man now entered the hut and Ulysses stood up and offered him his seat, but Telemachus would not accept it.

“Keep thy seat, stranger,” said he. “My good friend will find me a seat elsewhere.”

Ulysses then sat down and the swineherd made a seat for Telemachus of a pile of green twigs covered with skins. He also brought food and drink, the best that he had, and placed them before him; and the young prince ate heartily. When he had

finished his meal he inquired about the stranger, asking who he was and to what country he belonged. Eumæus answered by telling the story the stranger had told himself. Then he said:

“He has come to my dwelling for help, but I give him in charge to thee for thou art better able to help him than I am.”

“Thou dost not speak wisely, Eumæus,” replied Telemachus. “How can I receive a stranger in my house, since I am not master in it? It were better that he stay under thy roof and I shall send him garments and food, and aught else he may need. Ill indeed would it be to send him among those suitors who might insult him and perhaps do him grievous harm.”

Then Ulysses, for the first time taking part in the conversation, said to his son:

“My friend, I am grieved to hear that such wrongs are done in thy home. But why dost thou submit to those things? Do the people hate thee that they will not help thee? Would that I were young again that I might come to thy aid! If I were the son of Ulysses, I would die fighting in the palace rather than witness such deeds.”

Telemachus looked with surprise at the stranger and then he answered him.

“The people do not hate me,” said he, “but the

suitors are many and strong. They come from all the islands — from Dulichium, and from Samos and from Za-cyn'thus and from among the chiefs of Ithaca. They woo my mother, and consume our wealth, and seek to kill me. But now my mother grieves at my absence, so hasten, Eumæus, to the palace and say to her that I have come back from Pylos. Tell it to herself and to no other, and I will remain here and await thy return."

Eumæus willingly obeyed the command of his young master. He put on his sandals, and taking his staff in his hand, he set out for the palace. He had no sooner departed than the goddess Minerva, in the likeness of a beautiful woman, appeared at the open door of the swineherd's lodge, and made a sign to Ulysses to come forth. Telemachus did not see her, for she made herself visible only to Ulysses. She wished to speak with him alone that she might instruct him what to do. So Ulysses saw the goddess, and the dogs also saw her, and seemed to know that she was more than an ordinary woman, for they retreated into a corner of the hut, whining as if in fear.

Ulysses saw ;

Telemachus beheld her not ; the gods

Not always manifest themselves to all

Ulysses and the mastiffs saw ; the dogs

Barked not, but, whimpering, fled from her and sought

The stalls within. She beckoned with her brows ;
Ulysses knew her meaning and came forth,
And passed the great wall of the court, and there
Stood near to Pallas.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XVI.

The goddess immediately spoke to him and bade him make himself known at once to his son, and prepare to go to the palace to punish the suitors.

“Fear not to go,” said she, “for I will be near thee and come to thy aid.”

Then Minerva touched Ulysses with a wand of gold she held in her hand. Instantly the wrinkles disappeared from his face, his body gained its former strength, and his beggar’s garb was changed into the dress of a king and warrior. Then the goddess vanished from his sight, and Ulysses returned to the lodge. When Telemachus saw him thus changed in appearance he exclaimed aloud in astonishment:

“Who art thou? Canst thou be he who has just left me? If so thou art some god, else thou couldst not thus transform thyself.”

“I am no god,” replied he, “but thy father for whom thou hast so long mourned.”

So saying he clasped his son to his breast and kissed him, while tears of joy streamed down his cheeks.

Telemachus could hardly believe that it was his father, for he could not see how a mortal man could so change his form and appearance. But Ulysses told him that it was Minerva who had done those wonderful things, and assured him that he was indeed his father Ulysses returned to his beloved country after long years of suffering:

“Be sure of this,
That no Ulysses other than myself
Will ever enter here. I, who am he,
Have suffered greatly and have wandered far,
And in the twentieth year am come again
To mine own land. Thou hast beheld to-day
A wonder wrought by Pallas, huntress-queen,
Who makes me what she will, such power is hers, —
Sometimes to seem a beggar, and in turn
A young man in a comely garb.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XVI.

Telemachus was now at last convinced that it was his father; and he threw his arms around him, and they embraced each other again and again, shedding tears of joy. Then they sat down and Ulysses in answer to the inquiries of his son, told him how he had been carried to Ithaca from the land of the Phæacians. He told also how he had hid the gifts of the Phæacians in the grotto, and how the goddess had changed him into an old man, and directed him to come to the swine-



Meeting of Ulysses and Telemachus.

herd's lodge to meet his son and consult with him about destroying the suitors.

"But now," continued Ulysses, "tell me how many they are that I may consider whether we two alone can fight them, or whether we must seek help."

Telemachus answered his inquiries.

"My dear father," said he, "all my life I have heard of thy fame as a brave warrior and a man wise as well as brave. But it is not possible for two men to fight so great a number. There are fifty-two who come from Dulichium with six servants, and they are the most valiant of its chiefs. Four and twenty come from Samos, and twenty from Zacynthus, and from Ithaca itself there are twelve. There is the herald Medon also and they have a minstrel and two servants who attend them at the table. I fear it would not fare well with us if we should attempt to fight against all these."

But Ulysses was not dismayed on hearing of so great a number of enemies. "Have no fear, my son," said he, "we shall have Jupiter and Minerva with us. And now I shall tell thee my plan. Go thou to the palace in the morning and mix with the suitors. Afterward the swineherd shall take me to the city in the garb of a beggar, and I shall go to the palace. If they ill-treat me or insult me, be thou patient. Even though they drag me to

the door or strike me with weapons, only reprove them with mild words. They will not heed thy reproof, but the day of their doom is near. And more I have to tell thee. When I nod to thee, take all the weapons in the hall and carry them to an upper chamber. If the suitors ask why it is done, say thou hast taken the weapons away to prevent them from being soiled or tarnished, and also that they themselves may not, if excited in their drink, use them upon one another and dishonor their feast. But leave two swords, and two spears, and two shields for me and thyself. Remember also that thou must tell no one that I am in the palace — not even Penelope herself."

Telemachus promised to carry out the instructions of his father, and they spent the day together in the swineherd's lodge. Before evening the goddess Minerva again appeared to Ulysses, and touching him once more with her wand, changed him, as before, into an old man in beggar's garb.

"Then instantly
 Stood Pallas by Ulysses, and put forth
 Her wand and touched him, making him again
 Old, and clad sordidly in beggar's weeds,
 Lest that the swineherd, knowing at a look
 His master, might not keep the knowledge locked
 In his own breast, but, hastening forth, betray
 The secret to the chaste Penelope." — BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XVI.

Soon afterward Eumæus returned and told how he had performed his errand. He had seen Penelope and informed her of the arrival of her son. But a herald from the crew of the ship on which Telemachus had sailed, had also come to the palace to tell the news, and he had told it to the suitors as well as to the queen.

Telemachus and Ulysses listened in silence to the report of the swineherd. Then they had their evening meal, and some time afterward the father and son lay down to sleep on beds of twigs and goatskins, while the faithful Eumæus took his place, as before, near the pens of the swine.



XXXIV. THE INSOLENT GOATHERD.

IN the morning Telemachus got ready to go to the palace. When he was about leaving he ordered the swineherd to conduct the stranger to the city later in the day.

“The old man himself wishes to go,” he said, “and, besides, I cannot care for all the strangers who pass; I have troubles enough of my own. But many there are in the city who can help him.”

Then Telemachus left the swineherd's hut and soon he reached the palace. The first person he met was the nurse Euryclea, who welcomed him with tender affection. Quickly the news of his coming reached the ears of his mother and she hastened from her chamber to greet him.

“My dear son,” she cried, throwing her arms around him and kissing him, “I did not think I should ever see thee more. But tell me hast thou heard aught of thy father?”

“Dear mother,” answered Telemachus, “do not ask me to tell thee now. Go to thy chamber; and

promise that thou wilt offer sacrifice to the gods when by the aid of Jupiter we have punished those wicked suitors. But now I must leave thee, for I have to hasten to the market place to meet a stranger who accompanied me from Pylos."

Telemachus then left the palace and went to the market place. There he found many of the suitors. They came around him speaking friendly words, but in their hearts they had evil designs against him. He turned away from them, and shortly afterward he met his companion, Piræus, accompanied by the soothsayer, Theoclymenus. Piræus had carried to his own house from the ship the beautiful gifts of Menelaus, and now he requested Telemachus to send some of his servants to take them to his own apartment in the palace. But Telemachus bade him keep them until the palace should be freed from the suitors.

"Perhaps," said he, "the suitors may kill me and seize all that is mine, and in that case I should wish that these things be thine."

Then he brought the soothsayer with him to the palace and entertained him hospitably. And after a little while, Penelope came and sat down beside her son, and again asked him if he had heard anything about his father. Yielding to her urgent request Telemachus then related to her the story

which King Menelaus had told him of what the Old Man of the Sea had revealed.

Meanwhile, Eumæus set out with the stranger in beggar's garb to conduct him to the city, as Telemachus had ordered. As they approached the suburbs they passed near a fountain which supplied the citizens with water. Here they met Melan'thi-us, one of the king's goatherds, driving goats to the palace to make a supper for the suitors. Melanthius was a rude, ill-natured man and the moment he saw Eumæus and his companion he cried out:

"A well-suited pair, truly! Swineherd, who is that hungry-looking beggarman? Give him to me and I will set him to work sweeping up my folds and carrying food to my goats and kids. But perhaps the knave is not willing to work. He prefers begging for alms. I warn him that if he come to the house of Ulysses, there are men there who will fling footstools at his head."

So saying, he rushed up to the companion of Eumæus and made a thrust at him with his foot as if to knock him down. Ulysses was for a moment so enraged that he thought of striking the scoundrel to the earth with the staff he held in his hand. He thought it wiser, however, to be patient for the time, and so he did not even answer his assailant by a word.

The blow moved not
 Ulysses from his path, nor swerved he aught,
 But meditated whether with a blow
 Of his good staff to take the fellow's life,
 Or lift him in the air and dash his head
 Against the ground. Yet he endured the affront
 And checked his wrath.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XVII.

But the swineherd, not so patient as his companion, lifted up his hands and exclaimed in an angry voice:

"May the gods send Ulysses speedily home to punish men such as thou. Then wilt thou quickly cease thy evil ways, wandering idly around the city and leaving thy master's flocks to perish."

"Dog that thou art," replied the goatherd, "I will one day drive thee from Ithaca; and vainly wilt thou hope for Ulysses to save thee, for he will nevermore return."

Melanthius then went his way, while Ulysses and Eumæus walked slowly on to the city.



XXXV. THE FAITHFUL DOG ARGUS.

WHEN they reached the city, Ulysses and the swineherd went straight to the palace. As they approached, they heard the sound of music from within, for the minstrel Phemius was playing on his lyre to entertain the suitors, who were at their evening banquet. After gazing at the building for a few moments as if he had never seen it before, Ulysses exclaimed:

“Truly, Eumæus, this is a noble and beautiful palace. How lofty it is, and how strong are the battlements that surround it! A fit dwelling it is for a king.”

“Thou art a man of some sense,” replied Eumæus, “and thou hast spoken well.”

Not far from where they stood was the entrance to the stables of the palace, and in front of it lay a wretched dog, too weak to move a limb. It was the dog Ar’gus, whom Ulysses well remembered as an old and faithful companion. He had been the most beautiful of his dogs and the swiftest in the chase. But now he lay despised and neglected. The moment the faithful animal saw his old master



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Ulysses and his Dog, Argus.

he wagged his tail and held up his head, and showed by other signs that he recognized him, and would gladly have run to his side had he not been too weak to move.

A dog was lying near,
And lifted up his head and pricked his ears.
'Twas Argus, which the much enduring man
Ulysses long before had reared, but left
Untried, when for the hallowed town of Troy
He sailed. The young man oft had led him forth
In eager chase of wild goats, stags, and hares ;
But now, his master far away, he lay
Neglected, just before the stable doors.
Ulysses drawing near, he wagged his tail
And dropped his ears, but found that he could come
No nearer to his master.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XVI.

Tears came to the eyes of Ulysses when he saw that the dog recognized him, but he hastily wiped them away lest his companion might notice his grief. Then he said to Eumæus:

“ I wonder much that this dog is kept so ill. He is of noble form, but perhaps his masters found him of little use, not being swift to run.”

“ The dog’s master died far away,” answered Eumæus. “ He was the swiftest and bravest of the dogs of Ithaca when Ulysses left him and sailed away to Troy. He did not fear any beast

of the forest, and no beast that he tracked could ever escape him. But now there is no one to care for him."

The swineherd then entered the palace and went into the hall where the suitors were assembled. But the faithful dog, as if overcome with joy, died before his master's eyes.

The dog, whom Fate had granted to behold
His lord, when twenty tedious years had rolled,
Takes a last look, and having seen him, dies :
So closed forever faithful Argus' eyes !

POPE, *Odyssey*, Book XVII.

After brushing away the tears that flowed down his cheeks at this pitiful sight, Ulysses followed Eumæus into the palace.



XXXVI. THE BEGGAR IRUS.

TELEMACHUS was in the hall when his father entered. As soon as he saw him, he sent Eumæus to take him some bread and meat, and to tell him that he might go and beg alms from the suitors. So Ulysses went round, stretching out his hand to each suitor and asking for help. Some gave him alms, and some inquired who he was and whence he had come. Melanthius was there, and he told how he had met the beggar outside the town in company with Eumæus. Then Antinous severely rebuked the swineherd for bringing the beggar to the city.

“Have we not vagabonds enough of our own here,” he said, “without bringing in strangers? Where didst thou find this fellow?”

Telemachus now spoke out and begged Antinous not to insult a stranger in distress, but this only provoked the insolent suitor to abuse Telemachus himself. Ulysses then approached the table at which Antinous sat, and said to him:

“Friend, thou art a man of noble mien, like unto a king; therefore it becomes thee, though thou thyself dost sit and eat at another man’s table, to be

more generous than the others. I also was once the possessor of wealth, and often I gave to those in need."

These words enraged Antinous, and in his anger he seized a footstool that lay near him on the floor, and struck Ulysses with it on the shoulder. The blow had no more effect on the frame of the strong man than if it had been the touch of a feather. He stood firm as a rock, and bore the outrage with patience, but he secretly vowed vengeance against Antinous. Then he went and sat down at the door, and prayed to the gods to help him to punish the insolent suitors.

Telemachus was grieved to the heart at seeing the cowardly attack on his father, but he felt comforted by the thought that Antinous, as well as all the other suitors, would soon be driven from the palace. Penelope also was much grieved when she learned that a stranger had been so ill-used in her house. She sent for Eumæus and bade him request the poor man to come to her that she might welcome him and inquire whether in his wanderings he had heard aught of her husband. The swineherd told Ulysses, and he returned answer to the queen that he would come and speak with her in the evening when the suitors had left the palace for the night. After Eumæus had conveyed this answer to Penel-

ope, he departed for his own lodge, promising, at the request of Telemachus, that he would return next morning.

Meanwhile there came into the hall a common beggar, well known in the town for his greed and impudence. He was a great big fellow, tall and fat, but he had neither strength nor courage in proportion to his size. His name was Ar-næ'us, but the young men called him I'rus, because he was sometimes employed to carry messages, I'ris being the name of the messenger of Juno.

As soon as Irus noticed Ulysses, he came up to him and attempted to turn him out of the hall.

"Get thee gone, old man," said he, "or I shall drag thee out. Dost thou not see how they make signs to me to do it? Hasten away, for I do not like to lay hands on an old man."

"Insolent wretch!" replied Ulysses, "I do thee no wrong. There is room enough here for both of us. I do not begrudge thee what thou canst get, and thou shouldst not envy me. But take care not to quarrel with me, else it may be the worse for thee. Aged as I am, I may do thee harm, if thou provoke my anger."

This enraged Irus and he began to bluster and threaten again, and at last he challenged the stranger to fight. The suitors laughed aloud at the

idea of a fight between the two beggars, and Antinous proposed a prize for the winner.

“Hear me, noble suitors!” he cried. “The servants are preparing two haunches of good goat flesh for supper; let us give the choice of them to whichever of these beggars shows himself the better man in the fight.”

The whole company applauded the proposal, and they shouted to the two beggars to stand forth and do battle for the haunch of meat. Then Ulysses said:

“Friends, it is not fitting that one so old as I am should fight with a younger man, yet if it must be so, I am willing; but swear to me that none of you will strike me while we fight and so give the advantage to my enemy.”

They all promised that there should be fair play, and immediately Ulysses gathered up his ragged garments about his waist and stood forth prepared for the conflict. As the suitors gazed at him they noticed his broad shoulders and sinewy limbs, and one said to another:

“It will go hard with Irus in the hands of this lusty fellow.”

Irus himself was now much less inclined for fight than he had at first pretended to be. He would indeed have been glad of an excuse to withdraw

his challenge, and he seemed very reluctant to face the stalwart stranger. But the suitors forced him forward, and Antinous, observing that he trembled with fear, exclaimed:

“How now, impudent boaster; art thou afraid to fight this old man, broken down with hardships? If thou let him beat thee we will send thee to Epirus to King Ech’e-tus, who cuts off the noses and ears of strangers and casts them to the dogs to eat.”

Then the two beggars approached each other. The first thought of Ulysses was to put forth all the strength of his powerful arm, and with one blow strike his opponent dead on the spot. But then he reflected that if he did so, the suitors might suspect who he was, and he therefore resolved to deal with him less severely.

The godlike, much-enduring man,
Ulysses, pondered whether so to strike
His adversary that the breath of life
Might leave him as he fell, or only smite
To stretch him to the earth. As thus he mused,
The lighter blow seemed wisest, lest the Greeks
Should know who dealt it.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XVIII.

Irus struck the first blow. He hit his opponent on the shoulder, but it seemed to affect him as

little as if it had been the touch of a child. Instantly Ulysses dealt Irus a mighty blow under the ear, which hurled him to the ground with a broken jaw and blood gushing from his mouth. Then he dragged the unfortunate boaster out into the courtyard and set him up against the wall, saying to him:

“Sit there and frighten away dogs and swine, but do not again dare to insult strangers, lest some worse evil befall thee.”

Ulysses then returned to the hall and the suitors invited him to sit down and join them in their feast. Antinous placed before him the haunch of venison he had won, and Am-phin'o-mous, another of the suitors, poured out a cup of wine and gave it to him to drink saying:

“Health and good fortune to thee, stranger! Thy life hereafter may be happy, though now thou art poor and friendless.”

Then Ulysses said:

“O Amphinomous, thou seemest to be a man of sense, and thy words are wisely spoken. Listen, therefore, and take heed to what I say. None of all the animals that dwell on the earth is weaker than man. For while the gods give him health and prosperity, he thinks not that evil shall ever visit him. But when ill fortune comes he bears it impatiently and with a troubled mind. Such is

man on earth. I, who am not what I seem, was once prosperous, and trusting in my strength, I did foolish things. Therefore no one should do evil or violence, even though he have the power to do it. Nevertheless these suitors waste the goods and insult the wife of an absent man. But he may not be long absent. I think, indeed, he is very near his home, and it will be ill for them to meet him when he returns."

"For when he comes once more
Beneath this roof, and finds the suitors here,
Not without bloodshed will their parting be."

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XVIII.

Amphinomous seemed to be very much impressed by the words of the stranger, for he made no reply but rose from his seat and walked through the hall for some minutes in silence. Soon afterwards the feasting was brought to an end, and the suitors departed for the night leaving the stranger guest in the palace.



XXXVII. DISCOVERED BY THE SCAR.

AFTER the departure of the suitors, Ulysses talked with Telemachus and said to him that he should now remove the weapons from the hall as he had before suggested. Telemachus hastened to obey. But first he sought out the nurse, Euryclea, and bade her shut and fasten the doors leading to the servants' rooms.

"I wish," said he, "to take away my father's beautiful arms and put them in a place where they will no longer be soiled with the smoke and dust. This stranger will help me, for it is right that he should do work for the bread he eats."

Some of the servants were friendly to the suitors and this was why Telemachus did not want them to see him remove the arms. As soon as the doors were fastened, they carried all the weapons to an inner room; and then Ulysses bade his son go to rest for the night, while he himself would remain to talk with Penelope as he had promised.

Telemachus then retired to his own room leaving his father sitting in the hall. In a little while one of the doors opened, and Penelope entered

followed by a number of maid servants who came to clear away the broken food from the tables and put the place in order for the banqueting of the next day.

While the servants were at their work, the queen sat near the fire, on a beautiful chair ornamented with silver and ivory. One of the women, Me-lan'-tho by name, noticed Ulysses as he stood waiting until Penelope should call him, and she spoke to him in a rough voice saying:

"Art thou still here, beggar? Dost thou stay to spy upon the women? Get thee out of doors, or I will drive thee forth with a torch from the fire."

"Impudent woman!" replied Ulysses, "dost thou insult me because I am ill clad and must beg my bread? I was once wealthy and dwelt in a rich house and had many servants, and often I gave to beggars such as I now am. But it pleased Jupiter to make me poor. Therefore, woman, beware lest thou, too, suffer evil. Perhaps the anger of thy mistress may visit thee with severe punishment."

Penelope heard the words of Ulysses, and she called the woman and sharply rebuked her:

"Art thou not ashamed," said she, "to insult a stranger? And didst thou not hear me say that I wished to see this poor man, to inquire of him about my husband?"

Then the queen ordered another of the women to place a seat near her own, and bidding the stranger sit down, she began to talk with him.

"Who art thou, stranger?" said she; "where is thy birthplace, and whence dost thou come?"

The stranger answered that he had come from Crete and that he was a brother of Idomeneus the king of that island. "There," continued he, "I saw Ulysses on his way to Troy; for a storm had driven his fleet to our shores. Idomeneus had sailed for Troy ten days before, but I entertained the king of Ithaca and his companions at my house, and they remained with me for two days."

Ulysses told this and much besides to Penelope to relieve her anxiety until he and Telemachus should have all their plans carried out. While he was speaking, the tears flowed down her cheeks, and when he had finished his story she said:

"Now, stranger, I will test whether what thou hast told me be true. If thou didst entertain my husband as thou hast said, tell me what kind of garments he wore and who was the chief of his companions."

"Lady," answered the stranger, "it is now the twentieth year since I saw him, yet I will tell thee as it is in my memory. He wore a cloak of purple wool, fastened at the neck with a clasp of gold.



Penelope.

The clasp was of wondrous design. It was a dog strangling a spotted fawn with its teeth and fore-paws, and all marveled at it, so skillful a work of art it was. The dog seemed as if alive and eager to destroy his prey, and the fawn struggled to get free. Beneath the cloak Ulysses wore a beautiful tunic which the women gazed upon admiringly. He had beside him a herald who was round-shouldered, of dark complexion, and seemed somewhat older than himself. The herald's name was Eu-ryb'a-tes, and Ulysses honored him above the rest of his companions, for he was wise and prudent like unto his chief."

As she listened to this description which she well knew to be true, Penelope was overpowered with grief and for some minutes was unable to utter a word. When she had relieved her burdened heart with weeping she at length said:

"Stranger, thou hast hitherto been to me but an object of pity, but now thou shalt be honored as my dear friend. I myself gave him those garments of which thou hast spoken. I folded them in my chamber and I put on the shining clasp. But I shall see him no more. Evil was the fate that sent him to hateful Ilium."

"O lady," answered Ulysses, "cease from thy grief, for thou shalt see thy husband again, and he

will soon be here. I heard in Thes-pro'ti-a that he had lately been in that country and had gathered much wealth. But he had lost all his companions, for they slew the oxen of the Sun in the island of Trinacria, and Jupiter destroyed their ship with his thunderbolts. They all perished in the sea, but the chief himself was borne on the keel of his galley to the land of the Phæacians, where they honored him exceedingly. He would have been here some time ago, but that he went to consult the oracle of Jupiter, at Do-do'na in the Thesprotian land, to know in what way he should return to his home, whether openly or in secret. Therefore have no fear, for thy husband is surely alive, and by this time must be near his native country. Certain I am, and I make oath to thee, that he will be here before this month ends."

Penelope was much comforted by the words of the stranger, and she ordered the servants to prepare a bed for him with beautiful rugs, and conduct him to the bath and give him fine garments to put on in the morning, that he might be her honored guest, and no longer a beggar.

Ulysses begged to be permitted to wear the clothes he had on, as they were more suitable to his present condition. But he would be glad, he said, to be refreshed with a footbath if any of

the women would bring him a vessel of water and assist him a little, as his limbs were stiff with much walking.

Penelope then bade Euryclea to wash the stranger's feet. The old nurse seemed delighted to be asked to show this mark of attention to the poor man, and she said to him:

"I will wash thy feet, both for Penelope's sake and thine own. For of the many strangers who have come here, I have never seen one so like as thou art to my master in voice and form."

"Good woman," replied the stranger, "I have heard many who have seen both of us say that we much resemble each other."

Euryclea then brought warm water in a polished brass basin, and placing the vessel in front of Ulysses knelt down to bathe his feet. The logs of wood which blazed in the fire on the hearth sent a light through the hall, and Ulysses turned himself away from it so that the old nurse might not notice a scar that was upon his knee.

This scar was the mark of a wound Ulysses had received in a boar hunt in Greece, when he was a young man, long before he went to the Trojan War. The boar had rushed furiously at him, and with its great tusk had torn through the flesh above his knee; but the courageous youth had thrust his

spear through the beast's shoulder, and killed it on the spot.

Euryclea had often seen the scar, and she now recognized it at once when she began to wash the stranger's knee. With a cry of joy she let his foot fall from her hands. It struck against the basin and upset it, and the water streamed over the floor. Then touching his cheek affectionately with her hand, Euryclea exclaimed:

“Thou art my dear child Ulysses. Well I know that scar.”

The aged woman, as she took the foot
 Into her hands, perceived by touch the scar,
 And, letting fall the limb, it struck the vase.
 Loud rang the brass, the vase was overturned,
 And poured the water forth. At once a rush
 Of gladness and of grief came o'er her heart.
 Tears filled her eyes, and her clear voice was choked.
 She touched Ulysses on the chin, and said:—
 “Dear child! thou art Ulysses, of a truth
 I knew thee not till I had touched the scar.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XIX.

Penelope had not seen the basin fall nor had she heard the joyful cry of the old nurse, for after Ulysses had gone from her side she became absorbed in deep thought, and gave no heed to what was passing around her. Euryclea was about to cry out to her to tell her that her husband was in

the hall, but Ulysses instantly placed his hand upon her mouth, and speaking to her in a low voice, said :

“ Foolish woman, wouldst thou bring evil upon me now that I have returned to my native land after twenty years? I must destroy those suitors before any know that I am here. Be silent, therefore, or it will be ill for thee and for me.”

Euryclea was too happy in seeing her dear master to say anything to displease him ; and so she promised not to utter a word about his presence in the palace. Then she brought more water, and with tender care she bathed his feet and anointed them with oil.

XXXVIII. THE VISION OF PENELOPE.

AFTER his feet had been bathed, Ulysses again drew his seat near Penelope's chair, and they resumed their conversation. She told him of her griefs and troubles, how she thought night and day of her absent husband, and was sore distressed by the evil conduct of the suitors.

"But come," said she, after a little while, "I must tell thee of a dream I have had and perhaps thou canst expound to me its meaning. I dreamed that I saw twenty geese in our poultry yard eating grain out of the water. I was gazing at them with pleasure when suddenly a large eagle coming from the mountain bore down upon them and killed them all, scattering their limbs and feathers around the yard. Then he soared away into the heavens. I wept to see my geese killed, and my maids who were with me lamented also. But the eagle soon came back, and sitting on a projecting roof spoke to me with the voice of a man, and said:

"Be of good cheer, O daughter of Icarius, this is not a dream but a true vision. The geese are the

suitors, and I, a while ago an eagle but now thy husband, have come to destroy them.'

"Then I awoke; and when I went to look, I saw the geese in the yard eating corn from the trough. What thinkest thou of this dream, my friend?"

"Lady," answered Ulysses, "there is no other explanation than thy own. The eagle told thee true and so it will come to pass."

"Stranger," replied Penelope, "dreams are very uncertain, and all that they tell seldom happens. But I have something else to say to thee, and do thou keep it in thy mind. To-morrow may be my last day in the house of Ulysses. For I will propose a contest to the suitors, to shoot an arrow with the bow of Ulysses through twelve rings at the top of twelve poles, set in a row, as he himself used to do. Whoever shall stretch the bow and shoot the arrow through the rings shall be my husband and I will follow him to his home."

"I shall now

Propose a contest. In the palace court
Ulysses in a row set up twelve stakes,
Like props that hold a galley up; each stake
Had its own ring: he stood afar, and sent
An arrow through them all. I shall propose
This contest to the suitors. He who bends
The bow with easy mastery, and sends
Through the twelve rings an arrow, I will take

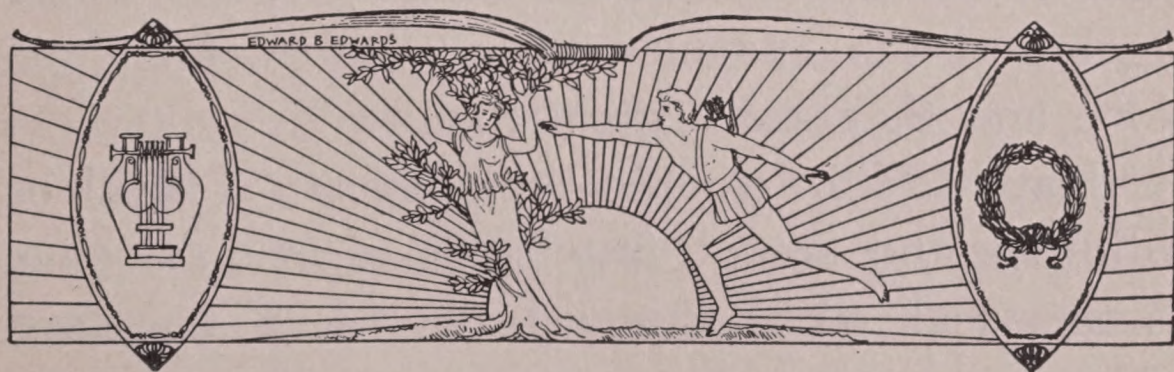
To follow from the palace where I passed
My youthful married life."

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XIX.

Ulysses approved of this proposal.

"Venerable lady," said he, "let it be a contest as thou hast described. For before they stretch the bow and send the arrow through the rings, Ulysses himself will be here."

As it was now late in the night Penelope withdrew with her maidens to her own apartments, leaving Ulysses to retire to rest on the bed which the women had prepared for him.



XXXIX. THE WARNING OF THEOCLYMENUS.

ULYSSES did not sleep, for his mind was occupied with thoughts of the work he had to do before he could be master in his own house. As he turned uneasily from side to side, filled with anxiety, thinking about his plans, the goddess Minerva appeared beside his bed and addressed him :

“Why art thou still sleepless, unhappy man?” said she; “this is thine own house, and thy wife and son are here.”

“O goddess,” replied Ulysses, “what thou hast said is true: but my mind is sore distressed, thinking how I can encounter those suitors, for I am alone and they are a great number.”

“Have no fear,” replied the goddess, “I shall be with thee, and though fifty bands of men surround us, they shall all be vanquished. Sleep, therefore, and be not anxious, for thy troubles will soon be at an end.”

Then the goddess shed a peaceful sleep over his eyelids, and she ascended to Olympus.

Early in the morning Ulysses arose from his bed and went forth into the courtyard of the pal-

ace. There he met Eumæus, bringing three fat swine for the banquet of the suitors. The swineherd and the beggar — as Ulysses still seemed to him — engaged in friendly conversation. In a little while the goatherd Melanthius also appeared, driving before him some of the best of his flock for the banquet of the day. He again taunted and insulted Ulysses in abusive words, and even challenged him to fight, but the hero made no answer; he only shook his head in silence, as if in deep thought.

Soon afterward another of the herdsmen, Philæ'tius by name, and the chief of them all, came bringing a heifer and some fat goats, and drove them into the inclosure where the other cattle had been put. Then he approached the stranger and spoke to him, but his words were very different from those of the evil-minded Melanthius.

“Hail, O stranger!” said he. “May the gods send thee happiness, though thou art now in ill fortune. As I look at thee I think of my master Ulysses. Perhaps he is wandering somewhere far away, even with such garments as thine. He set me over his oxen when I was young, but now there are other masters who destroy what is his, if indeed he be yet alive. I would long ago have gone to serve elsewhere, but I still thought of him,

that some time he might come and drive these suitors from his palace."

Ulysses rejoiced in his heart to hear such friendly words, and he quickly answered, saying:

"O herdsman, since thou art a friend to thy master, I will tell thee, and I swear to thee besides, that he will certainly come while thou art here. And the suitors will be slain, and if thou so desire, thou mayest see it with thy eyes."

"May Jupiter bring thy words to pass!" replied the herdsman. "Then my master would know how ready my hands are to fight for him."

Meanwhile the servants of the palace were making preparations within for the usual banquet for the greedy suitors. The good Euryclea was busily occupied superintending the work and giving directions to the maids.

"Come, some of you, at once, and sweep the floor,
And sprinkle it, and on the shapely thrones
Spread coverings of purple tapestry;
Let others wipe the tables with a sponge,
And cleanse the beakers and the double cups,
While others go for water to the fount,
And bring it quickly, for not long to-day
The suitors will be absent from these halls,
They will come early to the general feast."
She spake; the handmaids hearkened and obeyed,
And twenty went to the dark well to draw

The water, while the others busily
 Bestirred themselves about the house. Then came
 The servants of the chiefs, and set themselves
 Neatly to cleave the wood. Then also came
 The women from the well.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XX.

Soon afterward the suitors came and sat down at the tables, and food was spread before them,—the flesh of oxen and of swine and sheep and goats. Then Philæti^{us} distributed bread in beautiful baskets, and Melanthi^{us} served round the wine. Telemachus set a small table near the door for his father, and he ordered the attendants to place food and wine upon it. They served the old man plentifully, giving him as much of the good things as he desired. This was noticed by one of the suitors, whose name was Cte-sip'pus, and speaking to his companions, he said:

“Behold how this beggar is treated with as much honor as ourselves. Let me also honor him and make him a present.”

So saying he picked up an ox-foot which was lying in a vessel near him and flung it at the stranger. Ulysses bent down his head to avoid the blow, and the missile struck the wall behind him. Then Telemachus spoke out in angry voice:

“Ctesippus,” he cried, “it is well for thee that

the stranger was not hurt! For hadst thou struck him, my sharp spear would have pierced thy body."

Ag-e-la'us, another of the suitors, then spoke:

"My friends," said he, "let not the stranger be again insulted; but I would say a word to Telemachus. As long as there was hope of the return of Ulysses, there was no blame to his mother to remain alone and to resist the wooers. But it is now evident that he will return no more. Therefore let thy mother take for her husband whichever of the suitors she pleases, and no longer will thy goods be wasted or thy house be troubled."

To this proposal Telemachus answered, saying that he could not force his mother to marry, nor would he thrust her forth from the house of her husband against her will.

The banqueters laughed aloud, but it was as the laughter of demons; and a strange fear seemed to come upon them, for their eyes filled with tears. Then the soothsayer, Theoclymenus, arose and said:

"Wretched men, some evil is surely about to come upon you! Your heads and faces and knees are wrapped in darkness, and your cheeks are wet with tears. The walls are sprinkled with blood. Dim shadows flit around, and the light of the sun has died in the heavens."

"The man is silly," said Eurymachus. "Send him to the forum, for there is not light enough for him here."

"O Eurymachus," replied the soothsayer, "you have no need to order me away. Willingly I go out of this palace, for I see that evil is coming and not one of you shall escape."

So saying, Theoclymenus arose and left the palace. Then the suitors rebuked Telemachus for receiving strangers and beggars into his house, and they told him to send them off to Sic'i-ly where he would get a good price for them as slaves.

But Telemachus regarded not their insulting words. He silently looked toward his father and waited patiently, for he knew that the hour of deliverance and of vengeance was at hand.



XL. THE CONTEST OF THE BOW.

PENELOPE had been sitting on her throne in the banquet hall listening to the warning of the soothsayer and the insolent words of Eurymachus to her son. She now arose from her seat, and ascending the stairs of the palace went to the chamber in which the treasures of the house were kept. The famous bow of Ulysses was there, and also his quiver of arrows.

It was a bow which the chief had received in his youth as a present from one of the kings of Greece. He prized it so much that he would not take it with him to the Trojan War lest it might be lost, and during his long absence Penelope had carefully preserved it among the family treasures. She now took from the wall where it hung the polished case in which the bow was kept, and sitting down she wept aloud as she looked at the weapon which her husband had so often used.

Reaching forth her hand,
The queen took down the bow, that hung within
Its shining case, and sat her down, and laid

The case upon her knees, and, drawing forth
The monarch's bow, she wept aloud.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXI.

After thus giving way to her grief for some moments, Penelope wiped away her tears, and with the bow in her hands she descended to the banquet hall. Then standing beside one of the pillars of the lofty room, she thus addressed the assemblage :

“Hear me, you suitors who waste our substance, saying that you desire me to take one of you for a husband. Now I propose a contest. This is the bow of Ulysses, and whoever of you shall bend it and send an arrow through the twelve rings of twelve poles that shall be set up, shall be my husband and I will follow him to his house.”

So saying, she gave the bow to Eumæus, ordering him to place it by the wall in readiness for the suitors. The faithful swineherd wept when he took it in his hands, and the herdsman Philætius, who stood near by, also wept when he saw it.

Telemachus now got the twelve poles and fixed them standing upright in a row with the rings at the top in a line leading from the direction of the door. Then, lifting the bow, he took his place near the threshold to try his own strength. Three times he tried, and he might have bent it had he made a fourth attempt, but his father nodded to

him not to persist. So he laid the weapon by the wall, saying that some one stronger than he must now show his skill.

Then Antinous proposed that they should all make trial, rising one after another in regular order from right to left. This was agreed upon, and the first to try was Lei'o-des, a soothsayer, the only one of them all who had not approved of the evil conduct of the suitors. He could not bend the bow, though he wearied his hands, for they were soft and tender, not being accustomed to such exercise.

"Friends," he exclaimed, "I cannot bend it. Let another try. But I think it will be an evil contest for many of us."

"What foolish words thou hast spoken!" replied Antinous, angrily. "Thou art not skilled in the drawing of bows, but others there are here who will soon bend it."

Then he ordered Melanthius to bring some oil and rub the bow with it to make it soft and flexible, so that they might stretch it and end the contest. When it was well oiled they tried, one after another, to bend the bow until all had tried and all failed. None could bend the bow of Ulysses.

While the contest was going on, Ulysses noticed Eumæus and Philætius leaving the hall, and follow-

ing them out, he met them at the gate of the courtyard, and said to them in a low voice:

“Good friends, if Ulysses should appear suddenly now, what would ye do? Would ye defend him, or help the suitors?”

With earnest words and with prayers to the gods that he might return, they both declared that they would defend him. Then he made himself known to them.

“I am Ulysses,” said he, “returned to my country after twenty years of hardships. I know I am welcome to you two. And now you must help me, and if the gods grant me power to destroy these suitors, I will bestow on you possessions and houses, and hereafter you shall be friends and companions of my son. I will now show you a mark that you may know that I am indeed Ulysses.”

So saying, he uncovered his knee and showed them the scar. When they saw it they wept with joy, for they then knew he was indeed their master, and they threw their arms around him and embraced him. But he bade them cease from rejoicing, lest any one coming out of the palace should see it and suspect who he was.

Then he instructed them what they must do to help him against the suitors. To Eumæus he assigned the duty of bringing him the bow and

quiver when all the others had tried and failed. He also directed him to tell the women to lock the doors of the palace, and not to open them or attempt to leave the house, if they should hear any cries from the banquet hall. To Philætius he intrusted the duty of locking and securing all the gates of the courtyard, so that none of the suitors could escape, and none of their friends could get in to assist them.

When these arrangements were completed, Ulysses returned to the hall and took his seat near the door. Eumæus and Philætius followed soon after, and mixed among the suitors. Eurymachus was just then making trial with the bow, and having failed to bend it, he cried out in a sad voice:

“Alas! this will be a grief and shame among my people. I lament not so much the loss of Penelope, for there are many other beautiful women in Greece, but it will be a great dishonor to us that we are so much inferior in strength to Ulysses that we cannot bend his bow.”

Then Antinous spoke out and said:

“It will not be so, Eurymachus, for we shall yet win. But this is the feast day of Apollo, the god of archery, and he is offended that we contest on the day sacred to him. Lay the bow aside, and let the poles stand. To-morrow Melanthius shall bring

goats, the best of his flock, and after sacrificing to the god, we will try again."

All the suitors were pleased at the proposal of Antinous, and they poured out libations of wine and continued their feasting. But in a little while Ulysses arose, and addressing the assembly, said:

"Ye suitors of the queen, you do well to cease from the contest on the day sacred to the god. In the morning he will grant victory to one whom he chooses. But now give me the bow that I may try my hand and see if I have still the strength that once was mine."

A loud cry of anger arose from all the suitors at the presumption of a beggar in tattered garb asking to be permitted to share in the warlike exercises of noble chiefs, and Antinous sternly rebuked the stranger at the door:

"Impudent beggar!" said he, "art thou not content to sit and feast with noble men? Must thou also seek to compete with them in honorable contests? Hold thy peace, or we will send thee speedily to the land of King Echetus, from whom thou shouldst find no escape."

Then Penelope spoke a word for the stranger, saying that he should be permitted to make trial of his skill.

"Thou dost not expect, Antinous," said she,

“that if the poor beggar should bend the bow of Ulysses, he could expect to have me for his wife. No such hope can be in his mind.”

“O Penelope,” answered Eurymachus, “we do not indeed think that he could have thee for wife, but it would be a disgrace to us if people could say: ‘These men woo the wife of a king, and they are not able to bend his bow which a wandering beggar bends with ease.’ That would be much of a reproach to us.”

“But this stranger,” answered Penelope, “is a man of good seeming, and he says that he is of noble race. Let him, therefore, try his skill, and if Apollo give him the glory that he bend the bow, I will furnish him with fitting garments and send him forth to go wheresoever he may desire.”

Then Telemachus, wishing that his mother should withdraw to her own apartments, and not be a witness of what he knew was soon to happen, spoke to her and said:

“Mother, it is for me more than any other to give or refuse the bow, and if such were my will I might bestow it on this stranger to take it as his own. Withdraw, therefore, with thy maidens to thy household cares,—the distaff and the loom,—and leave the contest of arms to men, for it is their concern.”

The queen perceived the wisdom of her son's words, and without making any reply, she retired from the hall with her attendants.

Eumæus, the swineherd, now took up the bow and the quiver and was proceeding to carry them toward where Ulysses sat. All at once the suitors cried out to him in angry and threatening words, seeking to stop him; but Telemachus, in a voice of authority, bade him go forward and give the weapon to the stranger. Eumæus hastened to obey. He placed the bow in the hands of his master, and set the quiver of arrows at his side.

Then the swineherd went to Euryclea to tell her to lock the doors of the palace, which was promptly done; and the goatherd, Philætiús, took care at the right time to securely fasten all the outer gates, so that no one could enter from the city.

After performing these duties, the two faithful servants returned to the hall to be ready for further service to their master, as soon as it should be required. Ulysses handled the bow with such ease and familiarity that the suitors were astonished as well as angry.

"This beggar," said one to another, "handles the bow as if he had as good a one at home, or as if he were skilled in archery."

But Ulysses paid no heed to their words. He

continued to examine the bow, looking at it on all sides to see that it was in perfect condition. And he bent it without seeming to make an effort.

As a singer, skilled to play the harp,
Stretches with ease on its new fastenings
A string, the twisted entrails of a sheep,
Made fast on either end, so easily
Ulysses bent that mighty bow.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXI.

Then he tried the string and it twanged with a sound clear as the voice of a bird. Suddenly a deafening peal of thunder was heard, and Ulysses rejoiced, for he regarded it as a favorable omen sent by Jupiter.

He now took an arrow and placed the notch of it against the bow. Then, without rising from his seat, he drew the string and shooting forth the arrow, sent it straight through all the twelve rings of the poles.

He missed no ring of all ; from first to last
The brass-tipped arrow threaded every one.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXI.

Thus Ulysses ended the contest of the bow. Then he cried out to his son :

“Telemachus, the stranger has not dishonored

thee! He has not missed the mark, nor did he labor long to bend the bow."

He nodded to his son as he spoke, and immediately Telemachus girt his sword by his side, took a spear in his hand, and came and stood by his father where he sat.

He spake, and nodded to Telemachus,
His well-beloved son, who girded on
His trenchant sword, and took in hand his spear,
And, armed with glittering brass for battle came,
And took his station by his father's seat.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXI.



XLI. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SUITORS.

GREAT was the astonishment of the suitors to see a beggar in ragged garb perform a feat which they had all tried in vain to accomplish. But Ulysses did not give them much time to express their surprise or anger. He bounded from his seat to the door and standing with his bow in his hand and a quiver of arrows on the floor beside him, he cried out in a loud voice :

“The contest is over. Now I will try whether I can hit another mark !”

So saying, he aimed an arrow at Antinous who was just about raising a golden cup of wine to his lips, little thinking that his doom was so near. The weapon struck him in the throat and passed right through his neck. He sank to the ground, and in his fall his feet struck and overturned the table and scattered the viands about the floor.

In amazement the other suitors jumped from their seats, and looked round for the weapons that had hung upon the walls, but there was not a weapon to

be seen. They did not yet, however, suppose that the stranger had shot at Antinous intentionally, and some of them cried out:

“Stranger, what madness has made thee aim thy arrow at a man? Thou hast slain the best youth of Ithaca, and for thy crime thy body shall be given to the dogs and vultures.”

But Ulysses was not daunted by their threats. He answered them in a loud and stern voice, and at last made known to them who he was:

“Dogs!” he cried, “you thought I would return no more, and therefore you wasted my substance and wooed my wife, having no fear of the anger of the gods or of the vengeance of man. But destruction now awaits you all.”

Filled with terror, the suitors turned around on every side seeking for a means of escape. Eurymachus was the only one who had the courage to speak, and he raised his voice and said to Ulysses:

“If indeed thou art Ulysses returned to thy home, thou hast spoken justly, for much evil has been done to thee in thy house. But the man who was the cause of all, lies here slain. He it was who brought about these evil deeds, thinking not so much to gain thy wife as to rule over thy kingdom. But he is now punished, and do thou spare thy

people. As for us we shall gladly make full amends to thee for the waste of thy goods."

But it was now too late for repentance and so Ulysses quickly made answer:

"Eurymachus, even though thou shouldst give me all thy wealth I would not stay my hands from vengeance."

Then Eurymachus cried out to his companions to prepare to fight for their lives:

"This man," said he, "will not stop until he has slain us all. Let us quickly draw our swords and fight. Hold up the tables as shields against his arrows, and try if we cannot all together thrust him from the door. Then let us alarm the city and soon he shall have drawn his last bow."

Thus speaking, Eurymachus drew his sword and with a loud shout rushed forward to strike Ulysses down. Instantly an arrow sped forth from the bow of the king, which pierced the breast of the assailant, and sent him lifeless to the ground. Amphi'mous next advanced with drawn sword, and made straight for the hero at the door, but Telemachus came upon him from behind and pierced him through the body with his spear. Then hastening up to his father, he exclaimed:

"Now, father, I will bring thee two spears and a helmet and a shield, and brazen armor; and I will

give arms to the swineherd and the goatherd that they may help us."

"Bring them quickly, my son," replied Ulysses, "lest I have naught to fight with, for only a few arrows now remain near me."

Very soon the weapons and the armor were brought, but while he had any arrows left Ulysses continued to aim at the suitors, and with every shot he struck one of them dead. When his arrows were all exhausted, he put on the brazen armor, instead of the beggar's garb which he had cast off, and took in his hands two strong spears tipped with brass.

But Melanthius the goatherd, at the bidding of Agelaus, one of the suitors, contrived to get through a small opening at the back of the hall, which had been left unguarded. Then he ascended to the room in which the weapons had been stored, and carried down shields and spears and helmets to the suitors.

As soon as Ulysses saw Melanthius distributing the arms, he called to Telemachus and said that some of the servants must have proved treacherous. But Telemachus answered that the fault was his, for in his haste he had left the door of the storeroom open after taking out the armor and weapons.

Then they sent Eumæus and Philæti^{us} to shut the door, and ordered them, if they should find Melanthius taking more arms, to hang him to a beam underneath the roof, and leave him there to die. The two faithful servants hastened up to the chamber, and, as they expected, they found the traitor there. Instantly they seized him and bound him hand and foot with strong cords. Then they put a rope round his neck and swung him from a stout beam, and after mockingly bidding him keep watch on the weapons for the night, they locked the door, and descended to the banqueting hall.

The goddess Minerva now appeared on the scene. This time again she took the form and likeness of Mentor, and when Ulysses saw her, he begged her aid, speaking to her as if to the old friend of his youth, though he knew it was the goddess. But Agelaus cried out to Mentor and threatened that if he should help Ulysses they would kill him when they had slain both father and son.

Minerva was enraged at the words of Agelaus, and she spoke to Ulysses in reproachful language, saying that he was not fighting now as bravely as he had fought before the walls of Troy. She thus upbraided him to urge him to greater fury against the suitors. Then to put the strength and courage of the hero and his son still further to the test, she

withdrew from their presence, and taking the form of a swallow, she perched on one of the beams near the lofty roof of the hall.

The suitors, led on by Agelaus, now made a united attack, all at the same time hurling their javelins at Ulysses and his small band. But Minerva turned their weapons aside, and caused some of them to strike the pillars, others the doors, and others the walls.

Then Ulysses and his little party hurled their spears, and with each throw they killed a man. The suitors retreated in dismay to the back of the hall, but in a little while they again took courage and once more cast their javelins, only, however, to be once more turned aside from their aim by the watchful goddess.

Again the suitors threw their spears ; again
Did Pallas cause their aim to err. One struck
A pillar of the massive pile, and one
The paneled door ; another ashen shaft,
Heavy with metal, rang against the wall.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXII.

But the companions of the victorious hero did not escape entirely unharmed. Amphimedon wounded Telemachus slightly on the wrist, and Ctesippus wounded Eumæus on the shoulder, the weapon, however, only grazing the skin. Then

the herdsman, Philæti^{us}, struck Ctesippus through the breast with his spear, crying out, as the suitor fell to the ground:

“This is a present for thee in return for the ox-foot thou didst give to Ulysses in his own hall.”

The battle now raged fiercely. Minerva from the roof of the hall showed her terrible ægis, or flaming shield, which struck mortal fear into the hearts of the remaining suitors.

Then Pallas held
On high her fatal ægis. From the roof
She showed it, and their hearts grew wild with fear.
They fled along the hall as flees a herd
Of kine, when the swift gadfly suddenly
Has come among them, and has scattered them
In springtime when the days are growing long.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXII.

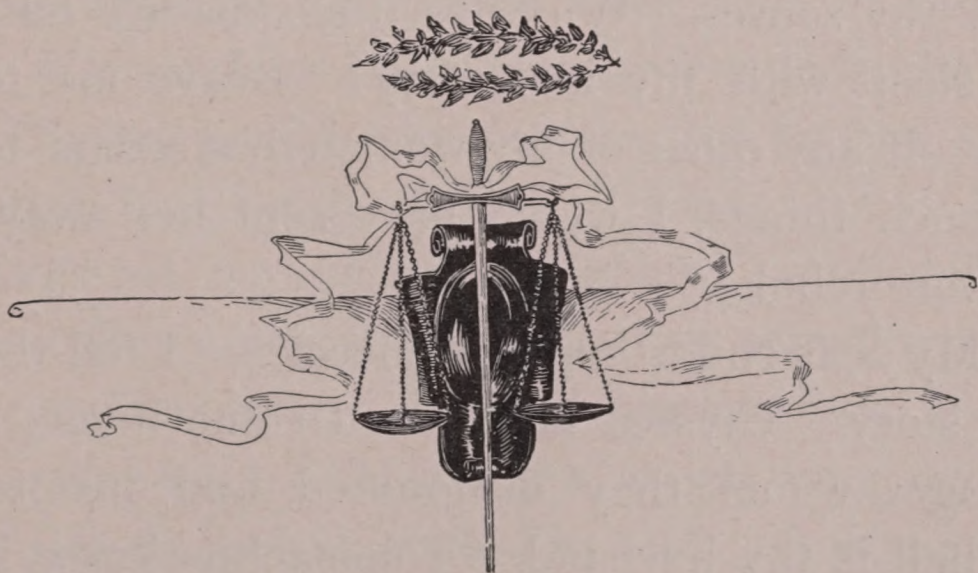
At last the work of destruction was completed. All the suitors were slain, but the minstrel Phe-mius was spared at the request of Telemachus, for it was only by compulsion that he had played on his harp and sung at the banquets of the suitors. Telemachus also interceded for Medon, the herald, who had loved him and cared for him when he was a child, and so his life was spared.

Ulysses now bade Telemachus to call Euryclea. In a few minutes the old nurse came into the

hall, and beheld with awe and astonishment the fate that had befallen the suitors. Then the other servants who had been faithful and loyal to their mistress gathered round Ulysses and joyfully greeted him. They embraced him and kissed his head and shoulders, and he wept with joy that at last he was in his own home in the midst of loving friends.

Forth they issued, bearing in their hands
 Torches, and, crowding round Ulysses, gave
 Glad greeting, seized his hands, embraced him, kissed
 His hands and brow and shoulders. The desire
 To weep for joy o'ercame the chief; his eyes
 O'erflowed with tears; he sobbed; he knew them all.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXII.



XLII. PENELOPE HAPPY.

MEANWHILE Euryclea, in a transport of joy, hastened up to the chamber of her mistress, who had retired to rest, to tell her the glad tidings of the return of her husband.

“Penelope, my dear child,” she exclaimed, “Ulysses has arrived, and he has slain the haughty suitors who insulted thee and wasted his wealth.”

But Penelope would not believe the old woman’s words.

“Dear nurse,” she said, “the gods have taken away thy senses. Why dost thou disturb me from my sleep with thy idle story? Leave me to my rest. If any other of my women had come to tell me such things, I would have sent her away with a severe rebuke.”

“My dear child,” replied Euryclea, “I tell thee no idle story. Ulysses has indeed come home. The stranger whom they dishonored and insulted in the hall is thy husband. Telemachus knew it, but wisely kept it a secret until his father had punished the wicked suitors.”

Then Penelope hastily arose and with tears in her eyes embraced the old woman and questioned her, saying:

"Dear nurse, is it indeed true that Ulysses, my husband, has come home? It is hard to think that he alone could prevail against those suitors, they being so many."

"I did not see it done," replied the nurse, "but I heard the cries of the suitors. And I saw Ulysses standing in the midst of dead men. And the bodies are cleared away from the hall, and the floors and tables are washed and sponged. But come, follow me, that your heart may rejoice. Thy long hope is accomplished, for thy husband has indeed returned to his dear wife and son."

But Penelope was still doubtful. She could not believe that one man could have slain all the suitors. It must have been done by the gods, she said, and Ulysses would never return, for he had surely perished, far from his beloved Ithaca.

"Why art thou thus incredulous?" replied Euryclea. "But come, I will tell thee something that will convince thee. When I was washing his feet I saw the scar on his knee which long ago the boar left upon him with his tusk. I would have told thee, but he placed his hand on my mouth and would not allow me to speak, for he had wisely

planned it otherwise. But now come and follow, and my life be the forfeit if I deceive thee."

Penelope then descended to the hall, but she was still in doubt whether to embrace the stranger as her husband or hold aloof for a while.

There was a fire on the hearth and the blazing logs lighted the room. When Penelope entered, Ulysses was sitting by one of the pillars, with the light full upon him. He did not move or speak. Penelope took her seat at the wall opposite to him, and she remained silent for a long time. Once or twice she looked him straight in the face, and she thought she recognized him, but again doubts oppressed her mind and she could not believe that he was really her husband.

At last Telemachus spoke to her and reproached her for her seeming indifference.

"Mother," said he, "thou art surely cruel of heart. Why dost thou sit apart from my father and not speak to him? No other woman would have been thus unfeeling to her husband coming home after twenty years of suffering. Thy heart is indeed harder than a stone."

"My son," answered Penelope, "I am in doubt and trouble what to think. But I shall soon be certain whether he be indeed Ulysses, for there are secrets between us which none else can tell of."

Ulysses now spoke for the first time since his wife had entered the hall, and addressing Telemachus, he said:

“My son, thy mother will know me soon. In these rough garments she does not recognize me, nor can she think that I am her husband. But now let us consider what we must do that the friends of those we have slain may not come upon us.”

“My father,” answered Telemachus, “thou art skilled in wise counsels and canst best tell what ought to be done. We shall follow whatever course thou mayst advise.”

“It seems to me to be best,” answered Ulysses, “that we bathe ourselves and put on fair tunics, and let the maidens of the palace also array themselves in their best garments. Then let the minstrel play upon his lyre, and let the youth join in the dance so that the people outside will think it is a wedding feast. Thus we may prevent the rumor of the slaughter spreading through the city, until we go forth and consult with our friends in the country.”

They all made haste to carry out these wise instructions, and soon the sound of music and dancing was heard throughout the palace. And people outside thought that it was indeed a wedding, and many of them said:

“Truly, some one has married Penelope. Alas, that she could not wait in patience for her husband to return!”

Ulysses was among the first to go to the bath and put on fresh garments, and he soon appeared arrayed in splendor and with the air of a king, for Minerva had shed beauty upon his form and made him taller and larger to behold.

Pallas on the hero's head

Shed grace and majesty ; she made him seem
Taller and statelier, made his locks flow down
In curls like blossoms of the hyacinth,
As when a workman skilled in many arts,
And taught by Pallas and Minerva, twines
A golden border round the silver mass,
A glorious work ; so did the goddess shed
Grace o'er his face and form.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXIII.

Thus, Ulysses, in appearance and in reality a king, entered the great hall and sat down opposite to Penelope. Then he spoke to her and said:

“Lady, the immortal gods have given thee a hard heart. No other woman would have been so unfeeling to her husband coming home after twenty years of hardships.”

“Noble sir,” answered Penelope, “I do not at all disregard thee. Well do I remember what thou

wert when thou didst sail away from Ithaca. But come, Euryclea, prepare a bed for him without the chamber, the bed which he himself has made. Carry it out and cover it with thick fleeces and beautiful rugs."

She said this to test whether he was indeed her husband, for she referred to the secret that was known only to her and to him.

"Lady," replied he, "thou hast given Euryclea a hard task. It would not be easy for any but a god to remove that bed from its place. I myself made it. There was an olive tree, tall and thick, which grew within the court. I built a chamber round about it, roofed it well and fitted it with doors. Then I lopped away the branches, and, after cutting off the trunk above the roots, I dressed the stump and polished it and made it into a post for the bed. Next I made the frame, inlaying it with ivory and gold and silver, and stretched upon it thongs of oxhide purple dyed. I know not, lady, whether some one may not have cut off the olive root and taken that bed away and placed it elsewhere."

Then at last Penelope was convinced that it was her husband who spoke to her, for the way in which the bed had been made was a secret known only to themselves. She rose hastily from her seat,

ran forward, and, throwing her arms around him, embraced him and kissed him. After a few moments' silent enjoyment of her happiness she said to him:

"Be not angry with me that I did not at first embrace thee. I feared that I might be deceived, for many there are who seek to profit by deception. But now I know that thou art indeed my husband."

Ulysses wept as she spoke, and he folded her in his arms, and thus at last the faithful Penelope was rewarded for all her long years of patience and devotion.



XLIII. A LEAGUE OF PEACE.

ULYSSES was now master in his own palace, but he had yet to provide against the danger of a combination against him of the relations and friends of the slain suitors. The tidings of their fate would quickly reach their families, who had great influence and power in Ithaca and the neighboring islands, and it might go hard with Ulysses if they should unite their strength and make war upon him in his palace.

But the first thought that occurred to Ulysses was to visit his aged father, Laertes. With this object he rose before dawn, and arousing Telemachus he bade him call the swineherd and goat-herd, who had remained in the palace over night. When they were ready he directed them to take their weapons, and soon after they opened the gate of the palace and went out into the city. It was now daylight, but Minerva shed a darkness round the hero and his companions, so that they could pursue their way through the streets and out into the country without being seen by any of the people of the city.

Meanwhile Mercury, the messenger of the gods, came down to Ithaca to conduct the souls of the suitors to the regions of the dead. The divine messenger held in his hand the golden wand with which he soothed men to sleep or awaked them at pleasure, and he called forth the shades of the chiefs whom Ulysses in his wrath had slain.

Hermes summoned forth the souls
Of the slain suitors. In his hand he bore
The beautiful golden wand, with which at will
He shuts the eyes of men, or opens them
From sleep. With this he guided on their way
The ghostly rout ; they followed, uttering
A shrilly wail. As when a flock of bats
Deep in a dismal cavern, fly about
And squeak, if one have fallen from the place
Where, clinging to each other and the rock,
They rested, so that crowd of ghosts went forth
With shrill and plaintive cries. Before them moved
Beneficent Hermes through those dreary ways,
And past the ocean stream they went, and past
Leucadia's rock, the portals of the Sun,
And people of the land of dreams, until
They reached the fields of asphodel, where dwell
The souls, the bodiless forms of those who die.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXIV.

In the regions of the dead the suitors saw many of the great kings and chiefs of Greece who fought at the Trojan War—Achilles and Agamemnon and

Ajax and other famous heroes. Agamemnon recognized Amphimedon, for he once had visited him at his house in Ithaca, and now he inquired how he and so many chiefs, all of equal age, had thus come together to the abode of Pluto. Then Amphimedon told the story of the suitors and their fate — how they had wooed Penelope for so many years, thinking that Ulysses would never return, and how at last he came back in the garb of a beggar and slew them all.

When the shade of Amphimedon had finished telling of the achievements of Ulysses and the fidelity of Penelope, the illustrious Agamemnon spoke words of admiration of both:

“Never shall the fame
Of his great valor perish, and the gods
Themselves shall frame, for those who dwell on earth,
Sweet strains in praise of sage Penelope.”

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXIV.

Meanwhile Ulysses and Telemachus and the two faithful herdsmen reached the farm on which dwelt the aged Laertes. Next the house were sheds or huts in which his servants and workmen lived.

Ulysses wished to see whether his father would recognize him, and so he directed Telemachus and the two men to enter the house while he himself

went down to the orchard in which he had learned that the old man was then busy at work.

He found him alone, hoeing around a young tree that had been newly planted. He was dressed in humble garb, patched and soiled. On his hands he wore coarse gloves to protect them against the thorns of the bushes, and he wore a goatskin cap. Ulysses could not help shedding a tear when he saw his father worn with age and bearing the marks of sorrow and suffering. He approached the old man and began to speak to him:

“This orchard is well kept, old man,” he said; “every tree shows signs of careful treatment, but be not angry if I tell thee that thou thyself art ill cared for. Thou art burdened with age and thy garments are squalid and unseemly. Thy master cannot neglect thee thus because of thy idleness, nor dost thou seem in form or stature as a servant, for thou art like unto a king. But tell me who is thy master? And I would know, for I am a stranger, if this is Ithaca, as I was told while coming hither. I once entertained a man in my house who said that he came from Ithaca and that his father was Laertes. I entertained him well and gave him rich presents before he departed.”

“Stranger,” answered the old man, “this is indeed Ithaca, but wicked men now possess it.

Would that thou hadst found here him of whom thou speakest! Then he would have requited thee with gifts and hospitality. But tell me, I pray, how long is it since thou didst entertain my son, if he it was? Unhappy man! I fear he has perished far from friends and home, where his mother could not mourn him, nor his father, nor his faithful wife, Penelope, wait by his dying bed. Tell me also who art thou and whence dost thou come, and where is the ship that brought thee hither?"

Ulysses answered by a story such as he had told the swineherd, Eumæus, in his lodge. But when he was finished he was so overpowered with emotion that he could no longer restrain himself, and throwing his arms round the old man's neck he kissed him and told him who he was.

"I am that Ulysses of whom thou inquirest," he exclaimed. "I am indeed he, come back to my home after twenty years of suffering. But I tell thee more. I have slain the suitors in my palace, and thus punished them for their evil deeds."

But the old man hesitated to believe that it was his son:

"If thou art indeed Ulysses," said he, "give me some proof so that I may not doubt."

"That I will gladly do," answered Ulysses. "First, behold the mark of the wound which the boar in-

flicted upon me with its tusk. Then I will recount to thee the trees which thou once gavest me when as a child I followed thee in the garden. As we passed them thou didst tell me their names. Thou gavest me thirteen pear trees, and ten apple trees, and fifty fig trees, and thou saidst thou wouldst give me fifty rows of vines."

The old man trembled with joy and embraced his son, and when he had composed himself so as to speak he said:

"The immortal gods are still the avengers of wrong, since those suitors have paid the penalty of their crimes. But now I fear their friends may come to attack us."

"Be of good cheer," replied Ulysses. "These things shall be cared for. But now let us go to the house, for I sent Telemachus and the swineherd and goatherd to await us there."

When they reached the house they found that the housekeeper, an old Sicilian woman, had prepared the evening meal with the assistance of Telemachus and the two faithful men, who were now honored as his companions. But before sitting down to table, Laertes took a bath and anointed himself with oil, and the old Sicilian put a fine mantle upon him, and the goddess Minerva gave him strength and beauty, removing

all signs of grief and suffering, so that he looked once more like a king.

Pallas gave the monarch's limbs
An ampler roundness ; taller to the sight
He stood, and statelier. As he left the bath,
His son beheld with wonder in his eyes,
So like a god Laertes seemed.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXIV.

Then they sat down to the banquet which had been prepared for them, and Do'li-us, one of the servants of the farm, came with his sons to see and welcome Ulysses.

But in the meantime the news of the fate of the suitors had spread through the city, and their friends came to the palace and carried away the bodies. Then a great number of them assembled in the forum and Eu-pi'thes, the father of Antinous, stood up and addressed them saying:

"This man has done a wicked deed. He has slain our sons and brothers. If we avenge them not, the disgrace will go down to our children."

The herald Medon then spoke and said that Ulysses did not do these things without the will of the immortals, for that he himself saw a god standing near him encouraging him.

Halitherses, the soothsayer, was also there and he spoke to the assemblage:

"Listen to me, men of Ithaca," said he. "You yourselves are to blame for all that has happened. You would not pay heed to my warning or to the warning of Mentor, to make your sons cease from wasting the substance of an excellent man and insulting his wife. And now I advise you to do naught against Ulysses, lest you bring greater evil upon your heads."

The words of Halitherses seemed to have a warning effect upon some, but the greater number of the assemblage raised a great shout and declared that they would follow Eupithes, and fight against Ulysses. Then they rushed to arms and with Eupithes at their head they marched for the house of Laertes, for they had learned that Ulysses had gone there early in the morning.

But Minerva, ever watchful of the safety of the hero whom she had so often protected, now approached the throne of Jupiter in his palace on high Olympus and said to him:

"O King of Kings, what is now thy purpose? Is it thy will that there shall be cruel war in Ithaca, or wilt thou decree friendship on both sides?"

"My child," answered Jupiter, "why ask me about these things? For didst thou not thyself devise that Ulysses should return and punish the suitors?"

Do then, as it seems best to thee. But this I would counsel: since Ulysses has now punished those men for their evil deeds, let him reign in peace in his own kingdom."

"Now that the great Ulysses has avenged
His wrongs, let there be made a faithful league
With oaths, and let Ulysses ever reign ;
And we will cause the living to forget
Their sons and brothers slain, and all shall dwell
In friendship as they heretofore have dwelt,
And there shall be prosperity and peace."

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXIV.

Such was the counsel and such the will of Jupiter. As soon as he had spoken, the goddess swiftly descended from lofty Olympus.

In the meantime one of the sons of Dolius standing at the door of the house of Laertes saw an armed force approaching from the direction of the city and he instantly gave the alarm to his master and his guests. Quickly they arose from the table and taking their weapons they hastily went forth to meet the enemy. They were a small force but they were valiant men. There were Ulysses and Telemachus with their two faithful followers, and there were Laertes and Dolius with six brave sons. Such was the army that marched forth to encounter Eupithes and his friends.

Soon they came close to the enemy and Ulysses, glad to have his son by his side at the moment of conflict, said to him:

"My son, well I know thou wilt now show thy courage and bring no dishonor on the race of your fathers who were famed over all the earth for their valor."

"My dear father," replied Telemachus, "thou wilt quickly see that I shall bring no discredit on our race or family."

When the venerable Laertes heard these words he was proud of the young warrior and he said:

"A day of joy this is to me, indeed, when I see my son and grandson rivaling each other in valor."

As the old man spoke, the goddess Minerva stood beside him and bade him cast forth his long spear. Then Laertes hurled his javelin at Eupithes, the leader of the hostile force. The weapon struck him on the head, and piercing through his skull sent him lifeless to the earth.

Ulysses and Telemachus now rushed furiously on the followers of the fallen leader, and they would have slain them all had not Minerva cried out in a loud voice:

"Ithacans, forbear from further combat. There must now be peace."

They heard the voice of the goddess and they

knew it, and they grew pale with fear. Then they dropped their weapons from their hands and fled away toward the city. Ulysses was about to pursue them, when Jupiter sent down a thunderbolt which flashed before the face of the goddess, who immediately addressed the hero saying:

“Son of Laertes, refrain. Cease from conflict, lest thou provoke the wrath of Jupiter.”

Ulysses obeyed the command, and the goddess, assuming the form of Mentor, made a league of peace between Ulysses and his people.

She spake, and gladly he obeyed; and then
Pallas, the child of ægis-bearing Jove,
Plighted, in Mentor's form with Mentor's voice,
A covenant of peace between the foes.

BRYANT, *Odyssey*, Book XXIV.

This was the end of the wars and adventures of the famous Ulysses, who now returned to his palace where he lived the remainder of his life in peace and happiness.



PRONUNCIATION OF PROPER NAMES.

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| A eha' ians (-yans) | A rē' tē | Dar da nelleŝ' |
| Āeh' e ron | Ar ē thu' sa | Dē' los |
| A ehīl' lēŝ | Ar' gus | Dēl' phī |
| Æ æ' a | Ar næ' us | De me' ter |
| Æ ġē' an | Ar' te mis | De mōd' o eus |
| Æ ġis' thus | A' si a Mi' nor | Dī ān' a |
| Æ ġyp' tius | A thē' ne | Dī' o eles |
| Æ nē' as | At' las | Di o mē' de |
| Æ ō' li a | A' treus (-trūs) | Di o ny' sus |
| Æ' o lus | Au' lis | Dō dō' na |
| Æ thi ō' pi a | Bac' ehus | Do' li us |
| Āf' ri ea | Ĉad' mus | Du lieh' i um |
| Ag a mēm' non | Ĉa lyp' so | Dy' mas |
| Ag e lā' us | Çeph al le' ni a | Eeh e ne' us |
| A' jax | Çe' res | Eeh' e tus |
| Al çin' o us | Ĉha rŷb' dis | E' ġypt |
| Al ex an' der | Çi eō' ni a | E lā' treus (trūs) |
| Am phi' a lus | Çi eo' ni ans | El pe' nor |
| Am phim' e don | Çim mē' ri a | E pī' rus |
| Am phi' mous | Çim mē' ri ans | Eū mæ' us |
| Am phin' o mous | Çīr' çē | Eu pī' thēŝ |
| Am phi tri' te | Ĉlyt em nes' tra | Eu rŷ' a lus |
| An ti ele' a | Ĉlyt o ne' us | Eu rŷb' a teŝ |
| An' ti elus | Ĉo çy' tus | Eu ry ele' a |
| An tin' o us | Ĉo' rax | Eū rŷd' i çe |
| An tiph' a tēŝ | Ĉrēte | Eu rŷl' o ehus |
| An' ti phus | Cte sip'pus ('Te-) | Eu rŷm' a ehus |
| Aph ro dī' te | Çy' clōps | Gor' gon |
| A pol' lo | Çy' prus | Greeçe |
| A' res | Çy the' ra | Greek |

Hā' dēs
 Hal i ther' seş
 Ha' li us
 Hee' tor
 Hel' en
 Hel' las
 Hel' les pont
 Hē' ra
 Hēr' eū lēs
 Hēr' mēs
 Her mī' o ne
 Hes' ti a
 Hō' mer
 I ea' ri us
 I' da
 I dom e ne' us
 I dō' the a
 Il' i ad
 Il' i on
 Il' i um
 I' lus
 I ō' ni an
 Iph thi' ma
 I' ris
 I' rus
 Is' ma rus
 Ith' a ea
 Jōve
 Ju' no
 Ju' pi ter
 Laç e dæ mō' ni a
 La er' çeus
 La ěr' tēs
 Læs try go' ni anş
 Lā' mos
 Lam pe ti' a
 La ōe' o ōn
 La od' a mas
 Lei' o des

Leu eō' the a
 Leu ea' di a
 Lib' ya
 Lo toph' a ğī
 Lo' tus
 Ma lē' a
 Ma' ron
 Mars
 Me' don
 Meg a pen' theş
 Me lan' tho
 Me lan' thi us
 Mem' non
 Men e lā' us
 Men' tor
 Mēr' eū ry
 Mī nēr' va
 Mī' nos
 Mō' ly
 My çe' nāe
 Nā' iads (-yadz)
 Nau sie' a ä
 Nau sith' o us
 Ne op tol' e mus
 Nep' tūne
 Ner' i tos
 Nes'tor
 No e' man
 No' man
 O çe' a nus
 O dŷs' seus (-sūs)
 Od' ys sey
 Œ nō' ne
 O ğŷğ' i a
 O lŷm' pus
 Or' pheus (-fūs)
 Pal a mē' dēs
 Pal lā' di um
 Pal' las

Par' is
 Pa trō' elus
 Pē' leus (-lūs)
 Pel o pon nē' sus
 Pe nel' o pe
 Per i mē' dēs
 Phæ ā' ci a (-shi-)
 Pha ë thu' sa
 Phā' ros
 Phe' mi us
 Phe' ræ
 Phi læ' tius
 Phlēĝ' e thon
 Phœ' bus
 Phor' çŷs
 Pi ræ' us
 Pi sis' tra tus
 Plu'to
 Pol y phē' mus
 Pon ton' o us
 Po sei' don
 Prī' am
 Pros'er pine
 Prō' teus (-tūs)
 Pŷ' los
 Pŷth' i a
 Ro' mans
 Sā' mos
 Sar pē' don
 Sehē' ri a
 Sçŷl' la
 Si çil' i an
 Siç' i ly
 Si' non
 Si' rens
 Sis' ŷ phus
 Spar' ta
 Stŷx
 Tan' ta lus

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ta' phi ans | Thēs' sa lý | U lýs' sēs |
| Te lēm' a ehus | Thrāce | Vē' nus |
| Tel'e mus Eu rým'e deş | Ti re' si as | Vēr' ğil |
| Tën' e dōs | Tri nā' eri a | Ves' ta |
| Thēbeş | Tro' jan | Vül' ean |
| The o clým' e nus | Troy | Za çyn' thus |
| Thes prō' ti a | Tŷn' da rus | Zeus (Zūs) |

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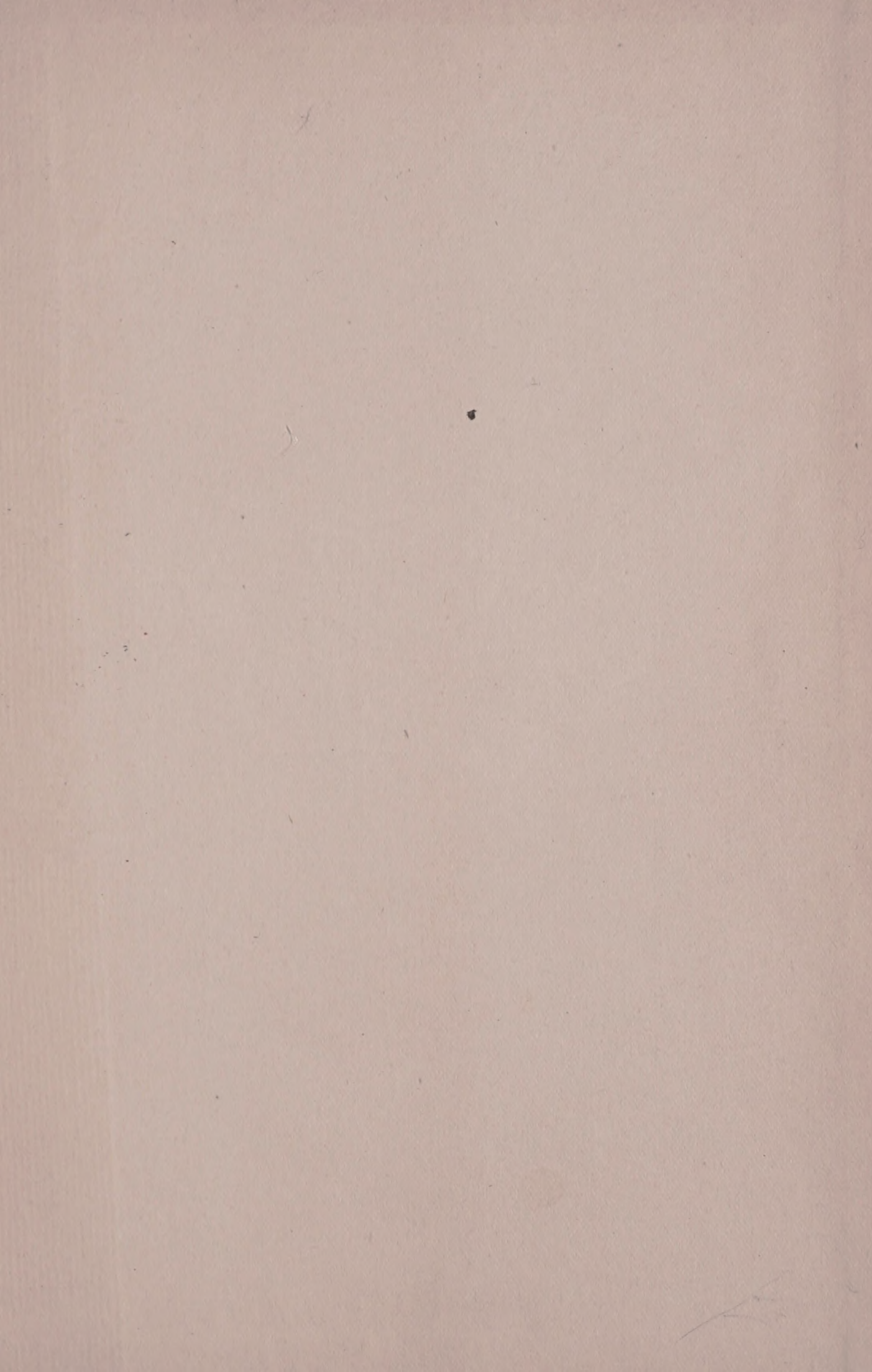
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